

Hafa Adai!

Inmate fears loss of eyesight. **PAGE 6**
Trump budget wants \$50.7M for Tinian divert. **PAGE 7**

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Gita destroys Tonga homes; Fiji next



In this image made from a video, people stand near a house damaged by Cyclone Gita in Nuku'alofa, Tonga Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018. The other photo shows the parliament house damaged by Cyclone Gita in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

AP

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The Pacific nation of Tonga began cleaning up damage Tuesday from a cyclone that destroyed its Parliament House, as well as homes and churches, and was intensifying as it headed toward nearby Fiji.

Cyclone Gita caused power outages after tearing through the island nation just south of the capital, Nuku'alofa, with winds exceeding 200 kilometers per hour (124 miles per hour) at landfall. Some 5,000 people stayed in evacuation centers overnight, according to officials, and

RELATED NEWS

- Trump OKs American Samoa emergency declaration. **PAGE 13**
- Amata welcomes federal disaster assistance. **PAGE 13**

an emergency was declared. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries or deaths.

■ ■ ■

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—Officials in American Samoa began a full assessment Monday of damage caused by tropical storm

See GITA on Page 4

Motion OK'd to force Navy, DOD to expand records

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER



U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Mangloña has granted the motion filed by four groups to force the U.S. Department of Navy and the U.S. Department of Defense to add four documents to the record in the groups' lawsuit over the Navy's de-

cision to relocate 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to hold live-fire training on Tinian and Pagan.

In a ruling on Monday, Mangloña ordered the Navy, Navy Secretary Richard Spencer, DOD, and Defense Secretary James Mattis to complete **See MOTION on Page 4**

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Senate Gaming Committee is looking at increasing the number of casino commissioners to seven and requiring one member to be Carolinian and one member to be a woman. Right now, the panel is specifically exempted from this constitutional rule.

PSS schools revel in CCLHS contests

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

and Carolinian languages and heritage through songs, dances, poetry, etc.

According to CCLHS program director Jonas Barcenas, it was the first time for the program to host this sort of competition and all the students showed enthusiasm throughout the week up until competition night.

"It was a very good turnout [and] was very successful. This

See PSS on Page 4

Women, Carolinian reps eyed for casino commission

Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), author of Senate Bill 20-87 and chairman of the Senate Gaming Committee, believes that the casino commission, which currently consists of three members representing Saipan and one member each representing Rota and Tinian, to also be subject to the constitutional mandate that every board or commission should have at least one members who is Carolinian

and at least one female member. That would boost the number of commission members in order to meet these constitutional requirements.

Ultimately, S.B. 20-87 was amended to continue to allow for five members on the Saipan commission; however, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is allowed to appoint a female and Carolinian commis-

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INSIDE



LOCAL

President Donald J. Trump has declared a state of emergency in American Samoa.

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ASIA

The Philippine president says he will order the navy to fire if...

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LIFE & STYLE

Former U.S. president Barack Obama unveils portraits of himself and Michelle Obama.

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Local

HOPE: Finding strength from within

At the Hinemlu O'halo Para Enteramenti, or HOPE, Recovery Center, healing is possible with a strong support network and inner work.

Licensed clinical social worker Debbie Roth and master of social work Queayla Sablan share that true, lasting rehabilitation comes from within.

For over 15 years, Roth dedicated her life to working

with individuals and families addressing a wide variety of issues, including substance abuse.

She joined certified substance abuse counselor and licensed clinical social worker Reuben

Chong from the beginning and has witnessed the impact to participants and families in



such a short time.

Roth said it has been an exciting journey, working and growing with the participants.

"We get to witness their journey through recovery," she said. "It's an awe-

inspiring work in progress because this is the first of its kind in the Commonwealth. To-

gether, we get an opportunity to try various approaches to see what works best with our community."

Sablan said that, after being away from home, returning and working at the Sablan center is worth it.

The center, she said, is at the heart of addressing social issues within the community.



"I recently moved back from Hawaii, and while there, I worked with families who were referred to child welfare services. We would receive referrals for families who had substance abuse is-

sues and work with them by helping them get into treatment. I have recently entered the workforce in the CNMI and this is my first job where I work directly with addiction so this is a learning experience not just for the clients but for me as well," she said.

Yvette R. Sablan, special assistant for Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation, sees the center as a community within a community.

"The work of our counselors, case managers, and clinicians is so vital to helping our friends, families, and even our neighbors re-enter society. We see how drug addiction often changes a person's behavior, which can affect all aspects of their lives, including our small community. In recovery, patients do their best to regain their normal lives in a safe and healthy way, but more importantly, we hope to reduce the stigma they carry since many have a real desire to be here, to complete the treatment and to change for the better. With the recent graduation of our first participant, we remain very hopeful and I feel that with the support of our community, there is so much to look forward to," Sablan said.

Roth noted that the center offers hope in a way that never existed before.

"This is important because we are letting the community know that seeking help is not something you have to hide anymore. The program focuses on a lot of support from family, the community, staff and the participants," she said.

Everyone could use a second chance, she adds, a second chance to embrace new outlooks and a new perspective on life.

With a refreshing sense of hope, Sablan calls the experience a beautiful journey not just for the center, but for the people of the CNMI.

"It's a journey because we're the first to have a rehab center and we get to tailor the program to make it work for the participants. Like a flower, we're slowly blooming and when we finally blossom, the flower is going to be so beautiful."

Roth is calling on those in the community struggling

with addiction or other issues to seek help as help is readily available. "Together, we must support those seeking help, and it is my hope that we continue to grow and expand the center to meet the changing needs of our community."

Recalling the first days of the center, Sablan said a second chance for many is very liberating.

"It's empowering to see others realize their potential. We've created such a safe environment that allows people to focus on themselves and make themselves better, mentally, physically, or spiritually. Although we are helping the individual, we are really helping the community. We are not allowing drugs and other issues to take over our island," she said. "I hope the center continues to be a safe place for anyone who wants to seek help and I hope everyone continues to support the recovery center and the work everyone is doing."

Expressing deep gratitude for the ongoing work of the center, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres emphasized the importance of resilience and hope for the Commonwealth.

"I've come to learn that our community is more resilient than we've ever imagined. I saw an enormous need to address addiction in our community as soon as possible. It is our duty and it is also my commitment to our community. When the first participant successfully completed treatment, I was overwhelmed with the sense of not only gratitude, but of obligation. If we are able to help one person, that one life can continue to make changes and affect more lives. It really is up to us to prioritize the needs of our community and be there for each other. We are making positive changes and this program gives us hope instead of focusing on incarceration. We've all been affected by this issue in some way and I hold one of the hardest memories that broke me down completely. This center is a gift to everyone who calls these islands home and is an ongoing commitment to giving our community another chance to thrive and to build a foundation for the future," Torres said.

Looking to the future, Roth and Sablan said that you don't have to be alone in recovery and that finding the strength within yourself is a good a place to start since it's never too late to get help.

HOPE services are free and the center is staffed 24 hours a day with participants from the general public.

For more information or help, call 323-7277/78. (PR)

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Better Together

PSS*From Page 1*

would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors [and] especially our students," he said. "It was to them that we passed on this vision and goal to perpetuate and preserve our language and culture."

The competition was open to elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Each school was given the chance to participate in an essay contest, in a poster contest, in a spelling bee, in choral reading, in dramatic interpre-

tations, in singing and dancing, and more.

For the elementary school Chamorro essay contest, Tinian Elementary School placed first, Sinapalo Elementary School placed second, and William S. Reyes Elementary School placed third. For the Carolinian essay contest Oleai Elementary School won by default.

For the middle school Chamorro essay contest, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School placed first, and Tinian Elementary School placed second. FMS also placed first in the Carolinian essay contest by default.

For the high school Cham-

orro essay contest Marianas High School placed first and Kagman High School placed second and third. MHS placed first for the Carolinian essay contest by default.

In the Chamorro poster contest elementary level, WSR placed first, and Sinapalo placed second. No elementary poster entry was submitted in Carolinian.

In the poster contest middle school level, FMS was the only middle school that submitted an entry for both Chamorro and Carolinian and placed first by default.

In the poster contest high school level, MHS placed first for both Chamorro and Caro-

linian entries and second for their Chamorro entry KHS placed third for their Chamorro entry and second for their Carolinian entry.

The spelling bee competition was only open to elementary schools. In the Chamorro spelling bee contest, Sinapalo Elementary School placed both first and second and WSR placed third. Olei Elementary School placed first and second for the Carolinian spelling bee contest and Kagman elementary placed third.

In the Chamorro choral reading contest, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School placed first, Garapan Elemen-

try School placed second, and Kagman Elementary School placed third. Olei Elementary School placed first in the Carolinian choral reading contest, and Kagman Elementary School placed second.

President Donald Trump on Sunday declared an emergency in American Samoa, a U.S. territory. The declaration allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide equipment and resources to help the 50,000 residents recover.

Chris Brandolino, a scientist at New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, said flooding and coastal inundation would likely cause as many problems in Tonga as the damage from the winds.

Both Australia and New Zealand are sending humanitarian supplies to Tonga, including emergency shelters, cooking equipment and hygiene kits

The groups then filed this motion to complete the administrative record, alleging that that the record is incomplete because the four documents and materials underlying these documents are not included.

The Navy and DOD did not oppose the request insofar as the documents are used solely for this motion, but oppose their use at the summary judgment stage of the case on the ground that they were excluded from the record.

In granting the groups' motion to complete the administrative record, Mangloña said the Navy and DOD lodged the four sets of omitted materials with the court and provided a corrected certification that the record is now complete.

Thus, Mangloña said, that the Navy and DOD conceded several documents were omitted is not enough to rebut the presumption here.

On the March 14, 2013, *Federal Register* notice, Mangloña said because the draft supplemental environmental impact statement refers to such notice, the court finds that the Navy considered the notice as part of its preparation of the SEIS and grants the groups' request to include it and the related materials who were completing the Guam SEIS.

On the training needs assessment and siting study, the judge said the March 14, 2013, notice expressly references these studies, and the notice itself was considered in connection with the draft supplemental environmental impact system.

Thus, Mangloña said, the groups have provided clear evidence that the Navy was aware of and considered these documents while preparing the SEIS.

On the draft CNMI Joint Military Training environmental impact statement, Mangloña said the October 2013 emails referenced by the parties involve a discussion of which species to include in the CJMT environmental impact statement and how to designate the categories of species.

Mangloña said the discussion was prompted by a comment from Angela Anders, the lead for the CJMT environmental impact statement, and the email participants were discussing whether the CJMT EIS should be consistent with the Guam SEIS.

Mangloña said this is direct evidence that the information included in the CJMT EIS was considered by the decision-makers who were completing the Guam SEIS.



The Rafaluwasch Warriors and the Chamorro/Carolinian Club perform a dance number during the first Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies performing arts competition awarding ceremony last Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

tary School placed second, and Kagman Elementary School placed third. Olei Elementary School placed first in the Carolinian choral reading contest, and Kagman Elementary School placed second.

For the Chamorro dramatic interpretation GTC placed first in the elementary level, Tinian placed second, and Sinapalo placed third. In the Carolinian edition, OES placed first, Kagman placed second, and GES placed third.

For the dramatic interpretation middle school level, FMS placed first for both Chamorro and Carolinian editions. Chacha Ocean View Middle School placed second in the Chamorro edition and Hop-

wood Middle School placed third. Hopwood also placed second in the Carolinian edition, and Tinian placed third.

In the cultural dance contest high school level, MHS placed first for the Chamorro and Carolinian editions. Tinian Jr. Sr. High placed second for the Chamorro edition and KHS placed third. KHS also placed second for the Carolinian edition.

WOMEN*From Page 1*

sioner, Quitugua told *Saipan Tribune*.

Right now, the casino commission is made up of all men: board chair Juan M. Sablan, Joseph C. Reyes, and Alvaro Santos representing Saipan, and Justin A. Manglona and Martin San Nicolas representing Rota and Tinian respectively.

According to Quitugua, the casino commission opposed his bill.

Based on comments from the commission, it pointed out that adding two more commissioners is an unfunded mandate and would cost the commission about \$250,000.

"The Legislature needs to identify about \$250,000 to fund board compensation, furniture and fixture, office spaces, training, and related expenses," stated a Feb. 6, 2018, letter from Sablan. He added that the commission receives only \$1,090 annually from local funding sources.

"The commission's main budget comes from the Commonwealth Casino Regulatory Fee Fund paid annually by the exclusive casino licensee."

Sablan further stated that the current board composition is already consistent with other CNMI casino regulatory boards. He pointed out that S.B. 20-87's findings failed to

acknowledge that the gender and ethnicity requirements of the CNMI Constitution do not apply to the board composition of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

He added that the current composition of the commission is already effective and efficient.

"The current requirements for board membership in the commission are sufficient for the effective and efficient administration and oversight of the casino industry [on Saipan]," Sablan wrote, adding that the casino industry on Saipan is still in its infancy as construction of the casino is still ongoing.

"While the intent of the bill is noble, its implementation will be difficult absent appropriations of funds to cover the added costs," he concluded.

Quitugua still believes in the need to have Carolinians and women represented on the commission.

"I am really in support of having a [person of] Carolinian descent and a woman on the board since the casino industry is new to us and these two board members are a huge representation in our community," he said, adding that the involvement of the Carolinian community and women are needed to fully embrace the casino industry in the long run.

 NEWS BRIEFS

Fishery scholarship applications due Feb. 28

The U.S. Pacific Territories Capacity-Building Scholarships pays for college expenses to complete a fishery science related undergraduate or graduate degree at universities in Guam and Hawaii. Applicants must have completed or be in the process of completing their sophomore year in college and be a U.S. citizen or national with strong ties to American Samoa, Guam or the CNMI. Contact the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council at (808) 522-5341 or atinfo.wpcouncil@noaa.gov for more information. (PR)

CJPA meetings set

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency will be holding a youth advisory and supervisory board meeting on Feb. 15, 2018, and Feb. 16, 2018, at the Pacific Islands Club. The meeting will cover CJPA grant funding and awards for various services and programs. The meetings will take place from 8am to 5pm on both days. (PR)

Kagman cluster schools' PTSA meeting set

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018, at 11am at Marine Beach. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this meeting and are asking that people bring chairs and, if possible, a dish to contribute to the potluck lunch. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

OPA to hold ethics presentations

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting ethics presentations on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

On Saipan, the presentation will be held on Feb. 20, 2018, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, starting at 9am; there will be a second session starting at 1pm.

On Rota, it will be on March 1, 2018, at the Northern Marianas College Rota instructional site. On Tinian, it will be on March 9, at the NMC Tinian instructional site. On both sites, the ethics presentation will start at 10am; there will be a second session starting at 2pm.

While on Rota and Tinian, the staff of the OPA will be notarizing and accepting filings of financial disclosure

statements from government officials.

All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of

photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport.

Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services.

To register, call Michelle Camacho at 322-6481. (PR)




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Inmate fears loss of eyesight

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deletorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An inmate at the Susupe prison is seeking help from the federal court, saying his eye surgery at the Commonwealth Health Center last September was unsuccessful. He now fears he is losing his vision.

According to court documents filed last Friday, Reynaldo A. Manila wrote to U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona last Dec. 6, explaining his eye problem and begging for assistance as he cannot afford to pay a lawyer to represent him.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy wrote back last Jan. 2 at Manglona's instruction.

Kennedy told Manila that the court is not allowed to give legal advice but, if he wishes to file a civil complaint about his treatment while in prison, the clerk's office staff can help him with court procedures and forms.

Kennedy said Manila may file a complaint without a lawyer, called *pro se*, and he may apply to proceed without prepaying court fees.

Manila wrote back last Jan. 29 to Manglona and Kennedy, expressing appreciation for

the response.

In his Dec. 6 letter, Manila said he was diagnosed with retinal detachment on his left eye in November 2015 while serving prison time.

He said he underwent surgery in February 2016.

In July 2016, Dr. Dennis Williams of the Marianas Eye Institute examined him and recommended cataract surgery.

Manila said that after three recommendations of Williams—twice in 2016 and once on 2017—the then-DOC commissioner, Georgia Cabrera, denied his medical treatment.

Manila said Cabrera believed that his medical needs were not necessary and not life-threatening.

He said that in September 2017, he finally had cataract surgery under Williams at CHC upon approval of the new DOC commissioner, Vince Attao.

Manila said he learned that his retinal detachment surgery had been unsuccessful during

a follow-up appointment with Williams at Marianas Eye Institute last October.

In January 2016, Steven P. Pixley, a lawyer retained by the Philippine Consulate General to represent Manila, informed the Office of the Attorney General that he is poised to file a lawsuit against the CNMI government if Manila is not transported off-island to get medical treatment to avoid permanent blindness in his left eye.

Pixley said the mistreatment of a Philippine citizen held at the Department of Corrections is a serious concern. DOC, Pixley said, is obligated to provide prisoners with adequate medical care under the Eighth Amendment.

In December 2015, the CNMI Board of Parole voted to support the commutation of the 60-year prison sentence slapped against Manila, who was convicted in 2002 for the death of a 6-month-old goddaughter.

Manila, now 56 years old, has been serving 17 years of his 60-year prison term.

In January 2016, Gov.

Ralph DLG Torres decided against commutation after taking into account information received from the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety on the history of the case.

Torres said due to Manila's medical conditions, he will work with the OAG to make the necessary arrangements to see that Manila is able to receive the necessary treatment off-island.

Then-assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley cited a number of reasons why the government opposed the commutation of sentence.

One, Baisley said, the defendant is still five years away from becoming eligible for parole.

Baisley said Manila was sentenced to 60 years in prison, but he only served 15 years of that sentence.

"He is not eligible for parole until 20 years. To commute the sentence now means that he served the very small sentence versus what the judge sentenced him to," he said.

Two, the prosecutor said,

the reason for the parole hearing was about Manila's medical condition as he has an eye problem.

Baisley, however, said there is no record or evidence that was entered that Manil's medical condition is of immediate concern.

He said it also seems that it's possible that the government could take Manila to Guam for treatment.

The deceased baby's parents, both Filipinos, have six children, including the infant who died.

Manila was 39 years old when then-Superior Court Associate judge Virginia Sablan-Onerheim sentenced him in June 2002 to 60 years in prison for second-degree murder over the death of the infant.

The baby lingered in the hospital for several days before dying on Nov. 6, 2000.

A jury found Manila guilty of second-degree murder and child abuse.

At the sentencing, Manila insisted he did not kill the baby. His son in the Philippines is now 18 years old.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, February 21, 2018
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 01/18/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (*not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings*)

B. Public Hearings:

- 1. Conditional Use Application #2017-3788:** Jiang Zhen Group dba Shanghai Guest House is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building structure consisting of 8 units to operate a motel. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H.86-1 in Sadog Tasi. This area is zoned as Rural.
- 2. Conditional Use Application #2017-4598:** Kuan Y. Leung dba KL Auto Shop is proposing to construct a new structure with 2 service bays for its Auto shop. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 001 H 47 in Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
- 3. Conditional Use Application #2017-4958:** Win Win Construction Co., (Saipan), Inc. is proposing to occupy an existing 3-storey building structure for staff housing. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 22533 in San Antonio. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

C. Communication

D. Old Business

- 1. Conditional Use Application #2017-4537:** YES Corporation dba YES Bed & Breakfast
- 2. Application for extension (Adult Gambling Machine Business):**
- a. File #2017-5210: Jin Ho Corp. dba MGM Poker
 - b. File #2017-5275: DKK Inc. dba Dollars Poker & Winners Poker
 - c. File #2017-5299: Sky Corporation dba Dandan Poker
 - d. File #2017-5300: Sky Corporation dba JL Poker
 - e. File #2017-5301: JSJ Company Ltd., dba KM Poker
 - f. File #2017-5303: 3 Js Corporation dba Joy Poker
 - g. File #2017-5322: Pacific Amusement Inc. dba High Roller 3
 - h. File #2017-5323: Pacific Amusement Inc. dba High Roller 1
 - i. File #2017-5326: KSK Corporation dba Shany II Poker
 - j. File #2017-5364: LDK, Inc. dba Yuta Poker
 - k. File #2017-5399: P&S Inc., dba 888 Poker
 - l. Files #2017-5400: P&S Inc., dba Orchid Poker
 - m. Winnerslife Inc. & Dan B. Choi dba SH II Poker
 - n. Winnerslife Inc. dba SH I Poker

E. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement/Public Hearing Procedures)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan donated \$5,000 to the Northern Marianas College Foundation for the organization's upcoming golf tournament.

Last Tuesday, McDonald's Middle Road employees and official presented NMC Foundation representatives with the \$5,000 as a sponsor of the 15th NMC Foundation Annual Golf Tournament on March 3.

McDonald's Saipan has sponsored the golf tournament for over five years.

The proceeds raised from

the tournament will be used to fund student programs, student services, and to improve NMC's learning facilities.

According to McDonald's Middle Road general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., the establishment is always happy to donate to the Northern Marianas' only college.

"We believe in the efforts of the college toward education and we really value education. We always want what is best for the local community," he said.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said McDonald's has always been a consistent

supporter and the foundation is grateful.

"McDonald's has been a strong supporter of the Northern Marianas College and has contributed to the success of not only past golf tournaments but also student activities like the Charter Day celebration and other events," said Fernandez. "We are grateful for the generosity of the company and of the Ayuyu family for their commitment to the success of NMC and other community organizations."

Fernandez also pointed out that the Ayuyu family came

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Trump budget proposes \$50.7M for Tinian divert

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President Donald J. Trump sent his fiscal year 2019 budget proposal to Congress yesterday, including a request for \$50.7 million for the Tinian divert airfield project.

The President's budget also funds the important Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water programs that have brought some \$60 million to the Marianas over the last decade. But the President proposes less for these programs than in last year's budget.

Also cut is the basic Title I grant for low-income schools, which means less money for the Marianas Public School System.

And the Office of Insular Affairs at the Interior Department, which provides targeted

Man sues Mohammed Ali over car collision

A man is suing for the injuries he allegedly suffered when a car rear-ended his vehicle along Isa Drive in Sadog Tasi last Aug. 28.

Beny Koe is suing Mohammed Ali for reckless, careless, and negligent driving.

Koe, through counsel Matthew J. Holley, asked the Superior Court to hold Ali liable to pay him damages for pain and suffering, emotional

funding to the Marianas, will have its budget chipped away under the President's proposal.

"We will be taking a closer look at what the President has said he wants," Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (IND-MP) said, when the budget was released. "And we will be pushing back to keep those programs that the Marianas uses and needs, when the appropriation committees begin taking input from members, as is done each year."

Even as the President begins the funding cycle for fiscal year 2019, Congress has still not funded the government for fiscal 2018, which began on Oct. 1. Currently, most of the government is operating under a continuing resolution that ends on March 25. (*PR*)

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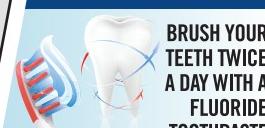
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Commonwealth Zoning Board (Zoning Office)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Zoning Officer (1)

The Zoning Office is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Officer. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Process permit applications including reviewing applications for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations; Conduct field surveys and inspections for compliance with the Zoning Law and to collect land use information; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the zoning program and permit requirements; Gather information to update the GIS; Maintain detailed records of all actions, using paper and electronic media; Update permit information on the database; Other duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited two-year college or university with an AA Degree. The following professional experience may substitute for the AA Degree: A minimum of 3 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends; Ability to speak in Chamorro or Carolinian a plus. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is \$28,000.00. The Application for Employment and Checklist of required documents may be picked up at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

Application submittals should be addressed to Therese T. Oguimoro, Zoning Administrator and may be sent via e-mail to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp or via Hand Delivery to the Zoning Office, located on the 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan. Application packages must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, a resume, copy of diploma/certificates, and all other required documents as listed in the Employment Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicant will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening.

Deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than 4:30pm, Thursday, February 22, 2018.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-18-010

MAUI 1 & 4 SHAFT WELLS MECHANICAL LIFT REHABILITATION PROJECT, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to design a method to rehabilitate the Maui 1 & 4 mechanical lifts; to rehabilitate the existing mechanical lifts and develop a safety plan for all required work in the shaft and tunnels in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **February 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-18-010 Maui 1 & 4 Shaft Wells Mechanical Lift Rehabilitation Project, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A **Proposal Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 26, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC Water-Wastewater Engineer, Jake Parker via email address jake.parker@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Officer

Proposed budget of \$608M for territories, FAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Donald Trump has proposed \$608 million for fiscal year 2019 through the Office of Insular Affairs for the benefit of the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI, as well for the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

» **\$111 million for Palau compact agreement is also requested**

The OIA budget request includes \$84.1 million in discretionary appropriations

and \$523.9 million in mandatory funding.

Additionally, the budget requests \$111 million of discretionary Department of Defense appropriations to be transferred to the Department of the Interior to support enactment of the 2010 Compact Review Agreement with Palau. These funds are provided to assist the government of Palau in its efforts to advance the wellbeing of its people and in recognition of the special relationship

that exists between the United States and Palau, its importance as an ally and a key part of the Nation's Asia-Pacific national security strategy.

"The 2019 budget request prioritizes the department's mission of restoring trust and fulfilling insular responsibilities," said Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech. "We are balancing OIA efforts to strengthen economic and health capacities in the U.S. territories and fulfilling U.S. obligations under the Compacts of Free Association to the freely associated states." (PR)

Creating an alcohol-free, drug-free workplace

Two speakers will talk about how to attain an alcohol-free and drug-free workplace at the Thursday, Feb. 15, breakfast meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter.

This SHRM meeting will take place at the Fiesta Resort

& Spa Saipan's Ascuzena Room, from 8am to 9:30am.

The speakers are Sandra F. Bordallo, MFT, LPC and Daniel A. Dueñas, MSW, MA, from Westcare Pacific Islands.

Bordallo earned her master's degree in counseling from the University of Guam, and has over 11 years of pro-

fessional, social work, and counseling experience.

She is a licensed marriage family therapist, and licensed professional counselor working with adolescents and adults in the Juvenile Drug Court, and the DUI Court systems in Guam.

Dueñas is currently employed with Westcare Pacific Islands under the Supportive Services Veterans Families as the lead veteran advocate.

Dueñas has extensive professional experiences spanning over 30 years in the areas of behavioral health and

substance abuse treatment, to include forensic treatment with incarcerated individuals from individual to group treatment.

The presentation is open to the public. The speakers will provide an opportunity for questions.

The presentation costs \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penny.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. (PR)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS CUC-RSQ-18-014

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, SURVEYING, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, AND OTHER A&E PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms for the design of water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water mains, sewer mains (gravity and pressure), lift stations, booster pumping stations, water storage reservoirs, treatment works, upgrade to existing facilities; providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specification, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, electrical inspection, review of partial payment requests, surveying, and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Island of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed projects are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and CUC. All work is subject to EPA & CUC review and pre-approval.

The RSQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFSQ package set. The RSQ package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective firms must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RSQ 18-014, Request for Statement of Qualifications" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2018**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and total conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firm are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firm due to lack of information or understanding of the Request for Statement of Qualifications requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This Request for Statements of Qualifications does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

All responses to this RSQ should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business and Engineering license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 23, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

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Pacific Islands News Association

Drowning in debt

By CAL THOMAS
Tribune Content Agency



Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com.

In "Hamlet," Shakespeare pens one of the most familiar lines—and best advice—ever written. Before Laertes leaves for Paris, his father, Polonius, tells him: "Neither a borrower nor a lender be..."

We have ignored that advice for far too long, which is why the U.S. national debt is \$20 trillion with more to come, thanks to the Republican Congress, which has passed a two-year spending bill that calls for \$300 billion in new spending and removes caps applied by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

It's being sold to the public with the highest and purist motives. We need to support our "brave" men and women in uniform and repair our roads and bridges.

As Politico first reported, an audit revealed a Defense Department agency can't account for \$800 million targeted for building projects. Worse, if that's possible, the Defense Logistics Agency has no paper trail and can't tell auditors where the money went. And Congress is going to give them more.

As for infrastructure, wasn't the Obama "stimulus," otherwise known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, supposed to have fixed roads and bridges? It was more like a down payment because government never has enough of our money.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), spoke the truth when he held up passage of the budget bill. As reported by The New York Times, Paul said: "I want people to feel uncomfortable. I want them to have to answer people at home who said, 'How come you were against President Obama's deficits and then how come you're for Republican deficits?'"

Paul was the only Republican senator to vote against the measure which is expected to increase the debt to \$30 trillion over the next decade, when probably all of those in the Senate will be dead or gone and won't have to take responsibility for it.

In addition to providing more money for the military, some Republicans are claiming with a straight face that this massive new spending is needed to finish repeal of Obamacare. No one can seriously believe that, especially with all of the additional pork that is undoubtedly added on to this bill in order to gain "bipartisan" support. So if it's bipartisan, it must be good, right? Spending may be the last bipartisan act in Washington.

President Trump says if there were more Republicans in Congress the new spending and increased debt would not have happened. Maybe.

It's helpful to remind these free-spending Republicans what our Founders warned about the dangers of debt.

See DROWNING on Next Page



Nearly everyone loses if immigration deal fails

The immigration free-for-all that starts in Congress this week will test the character of House Speaker Paul Ryan, the courage of Republican moderates, the cunning of President Donald Trump and the sensibilities of the Democratic left.

The odds are that any deal will fall part, and all of the above will be losers. Washington will prove to be as dysfunctional as the public perceives.

If, however, those politicians rise above that standard, it could be a win for all but the immigration-haters. The Dreamers, those immigrants brought here as children and who are contributing members of society, wouldn't face the threat of deportation, and there would be more resources for border security.

Democrats, with some Republican support, last month tried to get a deal for the Dreamers by holding up the bill to keep the government running. They were unsuccessful, and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, despite protests from immigration activists, wisely retreated.

A government funding measure was passed a few days ago with a promise that the Senate would take up immigration this week. The procedure is that if anything gets 60 votes, it passes. As for the House, Speaker Ryan has said only that it would take up a White House-supported measure.

Trump has been all over the lot. He has offered a proposal that, in addition to supporting Dreamers and a border wall, would beef up deportation police and cut legal immigration, among other measures that never could get through the Senate. What he wants is anything he can call a victory.

There are more than 60 votes in the Senate to protect Dreamers, ideally on a permanent basis, and to provide more money for border security (while being purposefully vague on a wall), in addition to some other, small changes. This depends on two conditions. First, the bipartisan self-styled common-sense lawmakers, Republicans like Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski and Democrats such as Joe Manchin and Chris Coons, have to stick together and ignore Trump and his tweets. Republican Senators Lindsey Graham and Jeff Flake can offer expertise in complicated areas, and John McCain, while stricken with cancer in Arizona, can offer inspiration.

The other condition is that liberals recognize what is achievable, rather than hold out for the perfect, as is their wont, contending they can do better after a blue-wave midterm election in November. They should remember that the same argument was made in 2006. The wave came, but the next year a Ted Kenne-

By ALBERT R. HUNT
Bloomberg View

Albert R. Hunt is a Bloomberg View columnist. He was the executive editor of Bloomberg News, before which he was a reporter, bureau chief and executive Washington editor at the Wall Street Journal.



dy-John McCain-George W. Bush immigration reform was defeated in the Senate by four votes, including a "no" from Bernie Sanders. No major immigration legislation has passed since.

If successful in the Senate—the odds are no better than 50-50—it would then be up to Ryan and the House. There is a bipartisan bill in the House, too, similar to what could pass the Senate, if it adds more money for border security. The speaker should guarantee a vote on that measure, which is being put forward by Republican Will Hurd, whose Texas district covers 800 miles along the border, and by Democrat Pete Aguilar of California.

If Ryan doesn't do that, or if he works to pass Trump's punitive measure, it would be the final chapter in selling his political soul. He presents himself as a disciple of the late Jack Kemp, an inclusive, avidly pro-immigration Republican. There is little chance Ryan will be speaker a year from now. He could announce his retirement this year. Or more likely he will run for re-election while continuing to raise tons of money for Republicans, and then quit after the election or be in the minority anyway. Can he stand up to Trump and the right-wing Freedom Caucus?

As for Trump, who knows? With him, it's never about principle. It's personal. Senator Jeff Flake of Arizona believes this may be one instance where Trump's instincts are better than the advice he's getting.

If the president could claim a legislative victory for his wall, which during the 2016 campaign he said Mexico would pay for, he could tame his base. He could learn a lesson on this kind of political maneuvering from Ronald Reagan, who faced a threat from his evangelical Christian supporters over his nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court. Trump isn't as skillful.

As for the public, there is overwhelming support for the Dreamers and strong skepticism about a wall, but there is also

See NEARLY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Rebaha Kinano'mu

Lamegai gi tautau-ta man-nina'ye chenot daibites. Pot mas ke dies años hu akanteha hafa fumañagu este na chenot gi sistema-ta.

Gaige i problema gi inipus na kantidan neñkanu'takakanu' kada sentada. Ginen este ta utut regulat na fuñgsion estomagu-ta. 'Los uttimu ni asukat gi neñkanu'ta ti hana' mamtu'. Trosu na asukat humatme dispues haga'ta. 'Nai mampos bula ha tutuhun chenot daibites.

I kareran este na chenot megaiña besis 'nai ta diskuida hit. Umapagcha' yan maribahan finattun haga' gi tat patte kumu adeñ-ta gi inamko'ta. Poresu na 'an iridau i adeñ-ta mas seriosu i chenot 'nai makat maguñg. 'An daibites hit debi uma-utut pot no u imbeninai i haga' ni mafattu gi titanos-ta.

I reñihion kumula dispues i haga' para u lagnos i binenu siha. 'Nai tantu malofan i ti man-mamtu' siha na asukat, inaminasa fuñgsioña estake tai bali. Siempre umakula dispues haga' mu ni makina (daialasis) tres dias kada semana kuattru oras kada biahe. Makat malagnos todou binenu gi este na eksisiu solu i naturat na reñihion.

Inipus na kantida ta gulususune na neñkanu'. Dispues tana' tinatiye manadan asiga, asukat yan mantika. Haf 'ste na pre-parasion fandañgo! Hinemu' miyu gaige gi dos patman kanai miyu. Tutuhun umutut i kantidan neñkanu' ni in' kakanu' kada sentada. I neñkanu' para alimienton tatautau-ta. ***

Un' lahen mame mauleg gi sentada. Esta na'malagu' 'an duru ha sumuke-gue'. Siñku años dispues kontodu mamokat gai chinatsaga. Dispues, ma-opera bayogun timoña pot gastadu todou ginen inipus minakatña. Namase' i prohimu pot makat kalamten ya debi u katasuge' 'an para u famokat entre bastun yan otru attifisiu. Lastima!

Asukat: Ayu tapopo'lu asukat i tafafahan gi tenda gi siñku libra na botsiyu. Teñga tananaye gimenta kafe, finatinas pastre yan otru siha neñkanu'. Lau asukat gaige gi hinegasa' ni diariu takanu', pan yan fina' pastre, sune, kamute, choda, mendioka, nika yan dagu.

I asukat hinegasa' mas chadeg madirite gi estomagu-ta. Poresu na un' ratutu ha' muna' yomug! I 'aggun natibu masdispiasiu machalapun asukatña yan lokue' mas alimientos ke hinegasa'. Estague i difirensia gi klasen asukat. Mas megai asukat gi fina'

kande yan gimen soft drinks. Añgoghu na gigon un' offisiona soft drinks pues chadegña umaridondu tiyanmu ke para un' gotde sinturonmu. ***

Todu klase hu kakanu' na tiempu gi hilu' menus ke regulat na kantida ni hu pepega gi pachothu. Estague bintahaña ma-utut mas i kantida gi sentadan diariu. Tatnai chathinassuyu' desde ke hu eksisia diariu menus ke regulat na neñkanu' gi sentadahu. Hu yute' petmanente maneska. Mas ke lamita gi usun asukat hu utut sin ditension.

Titanus: Pot rason na i asukat solu siña humalum gi titanos tautau na hu tutuhun ha'anihu gi primet na pusuelon kafe ni mana' ye un' kichalan asukat (hilu' kichalan dikiñi').

Appruebau yan mauleg na tinituhun para man-daibites gi finattun ha'ane. Gigon hinatme titanosmu asukat libre hau man-aligau amotsa-mu.

Hahassu na duranten maigo'mu maliñgu asukat tatautau-mu. Poresu na debi un' tutuhun gi primet pusuelon kafe ni mana' mames. Kumu ti un' gimen siempre un' padese man-laualau. Señat na taya' asukat gi tatautau-mu.

'Nai un' adapta menos ke medianu na kantidan boka ni makompatte sais biahe gi ha'ane, un' sedi estomagumu calamten mauleg gi mamulinun neñkanu'. Un' tutuhun muna' tunog lokue' libramu gi mismu tiempu.

Gi halum sais mesis tumunog libra-hu ginen 236 libra papa' gi 140. Mas ñahlalañg yan homlu' siñienteg-hu. Ginen este na modun boka libre hau kumanu' maseha hafa malago'mu. Gi hilu este kontodu bacon yan dididi' mantikan katnen babue yan guaka siña un' kanu' sin un' chathinassu.

Un' hoñgge na dibi i tatautau mu u usa mantika para u lagnos i otru mantika? Dispues todou fina' otru klasen asukat fuera de regulat, suhay. Mas problema usun "sugar free" na fina' mames ke regulat na asukat.

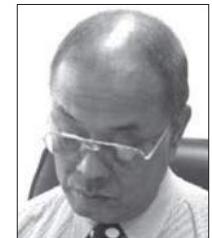
Prohimu-mu: Yine' ase' yan respetu giya hagu mismu nina'e hau kampu rumespeta i otru sin ditension. Parehu hamyu umali'e mata gi katkuet pinetsige. I amesta yan inagoli'e mas masimientu.

Gi karera guaha na i mas ti un' añgoghu mattu yan ayuduña gi didog na oran chinatsaga-mu. Un' biahe ni monayu' ni tatto. Sigeju' manayuyot yine' ase' gi Saina pot makat asuntog-hu. Gi

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune* and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the *Saipan Tribune*.*



lapupueñge ha bisitayu' un' cheluhu finattun para unana'lu hagas inayauñia giya guahu.

Man-na'eyu' mit grasics gi Saina pot hahuñgog finaisen-hu. Bali hineñgge giya guiya pot ginen guiya mismu todou i ta benefisiasi diariu gi ha'anita. Tatnai ha diñgu hit kau katma pat mattiempo. Gaige todou i tiempu i geftau na kanaiña para haye umoguñge-gue'. Ti deskribiyun guinaiaña nu hita.

Da Boysis: Hu e'ekuñgog ñaihon haye gi presente na membron lehislatura para u fan malagu na sakan. Kulan este i katma antes de fotten pagyu.

Hu a'atan na lamegai man-binatsala huyuñ ni risaken napun binibun publiku. Kada unu debi u satban maisague haf' et dichu checho'ña gi bandan ayudun monedan familia. Yangin guaha para in' sañgan pues na la-agañg!

Ni taimanu na atlibes-mu ni pahinan papet taya' makomple guine na patte. Poresu na lamegai siempre kulan man-udu na bi-ahe gi pastahen publiku. 'An guaha umatreibigue' bumatbaruye i asuntu, chatmiyu fan malelefäti kaduduku i publiku. I tautau maseha man-silensiü matuñg asuntun niha punta pot punta.

Makat na asuntu 'nai ti un' fatachuñge pot para un' estudiaye yan komprende hafa magahet i sentru na pinadesen familia guine. Gaige gi tai sinine na moneda! Lau in' hatsa suetdun miyu 80 pot sientu? Haf' taimanu na in' ipus enteru i empleau siha guine na asuntu? Kau hamyu ha' man-tautau?

Mañgge sensian miyu para in ayuda 14-mit na empleau ni hagas masuñgun suetdun tanores pot mas ke 20 años na tiempu? Na ti man-tautau lokue' ni pumadedese mahatsan manpresisu siha na fektas, apas kandet, apas hospitat, yan gaselina?

DROWNING

From Page 10

James Madison said: "Debts and taxes are the known instrument for bringing the many under the domination of the few" and "I go on the principle that a public debt is a public curse."

Thomas Jefferson spoke to the dangers of a government drunk on out-of-control spending that leads to increasing debt: "To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude."

Among the reasons empires and great nations have collapsed is public debt. Seeking to pacify the masses by never saying "no" to anything, politicians mortgage the future while preserving their current careers. Maybe America should change its initials from USA to ATM.

To invoke singer/songwriter Don McLean in a different context and applying it to modern politicians: "They would not listen they're not listening still; perhaps they never will."

NEARLY

From Page 10

Backing for more border security. On other issues, a solid majority opposes cuts in legal immigration and prefers a tilt more to immigration based on skills rather than centered on families.

Even in the home state of Republican Representative Steve King, who, with Trump, is the foremost immigration basher, 62 percent of voters favor pursuing a pathway to citizenship and not just for Dreamers, according to this month's Iowa poll reported in the Des Moines Register.

The next several weeks could produce a win-win plan for both sides. If this fails, hundreds of thousands of young Dreamers will live in the fear of deportation, immigration advocates once again will walk away empty-handed, Republicans will take a political hit, and Donald Trump will have nothing but his bluster.

Kilili: Workforce Act protects local businesses

Editor's Note: This is the third in a four-part series by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, explaining aspects of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, which he introduced on Jan. 19. A hearing on the U.S. Workforce Act was held on Feb. 6 by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. To watch the hearing go to the <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhRUsvleahs>.

Last time, we talked about extending the transitional worker program for 10 years and lifting next year's permit cap from 4,999 to 13,000.

Those are two big-ticket items in the U.S. Workforce Act that our business community asked me to negotiate for them in Congress.

But there are deeper problems local businesses face with the CW program, which I was also asked to solve.

Making the process more efficient

One issue, as a business owner wrote me, is the "expensive, inefficient and time-consuming" annual renewal process. Renewal applications have to be submitted six months ahead of expiration and can take six months or more to be processed.

My Workforce Act addresses this long wait and the uncertainty that businesses face by requiring the Department of Homeland Security to make a decision on permit applications within 60 days. The current open-ended adjudication period is unfair to businesses and their workers alike.

The Act also frees local businesses, who depend on legacy foreign workers, from the never-ending and costly annual renewal requirements. I will talk about that change in the next installment.

Weed out the 'bad actors'

Local businesses that try to live by the law and treat employees well are also the victims of "bad actors." I am talking about operations that scoop up hundreds of CW permits and then sell them in places where people are desperate for the

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLÁN

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

chance to come to America.

This is human trafficking, plain and simple. It has to be stopped. But it also hurts our legitimate local businesses, who cannot get the CW permits they need. And it soils the good name of the Marianas when workers brought here are left without a job or never get paid.

My Workforce Act tackles these problems, too. Anyone who employs a CW worker will have to present evidence to federal agents—every three months—that foreign workers are being paid and that all the other terms and conditions of employment are being met. No "ghost permits."

And employers who are in breach of federal or Commonwealth labor laws—or not using their permits—will have them revoked, so legitimate businesses can have them instead.

Let me hear what you think

I am writing this series of articles, so you, the people I work for, can have a deeper understanding of the legislation I wrote. If you have any questions about how my U.S. Workforce Act helps local workers and local businesses, please, let me know. My email is kilili@mail.house.gov.

Next time, I will write about what the Act does for those who came to work and have lived here for so many years that they are now part of our community. The Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act helps them, too."

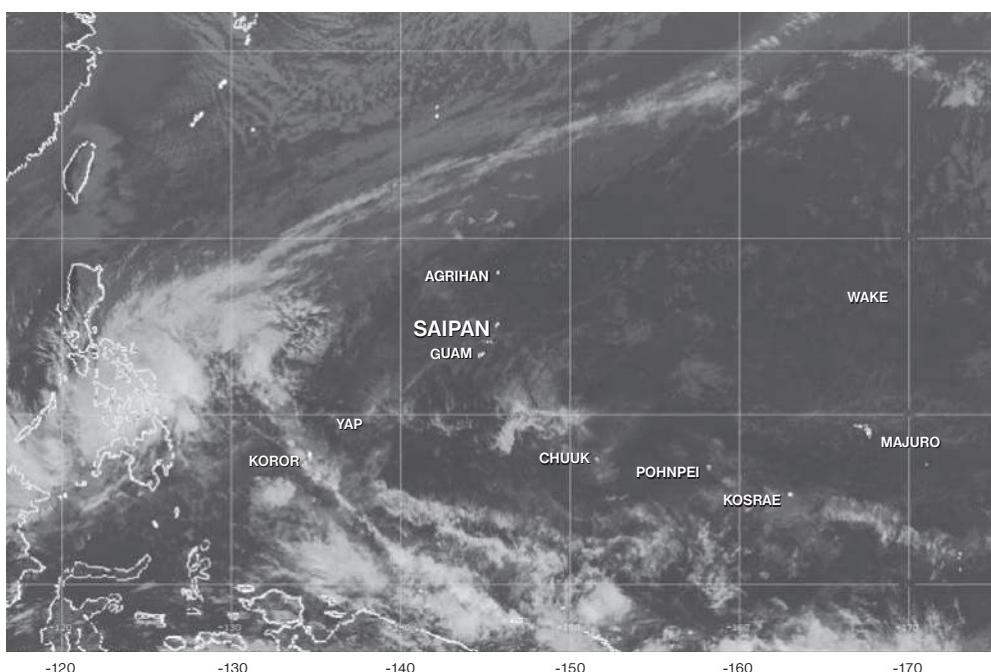
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated sprinkles. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated sprinkles.	Partly cloudy with isolated sprinkles.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.

TEMPERATURE
▲ 89° ▼ 78° **▲ 89° ▼ 78°** **▲ 89° ▼ 78°** **▲ 89° ▼ 77°** **▲ 88° ▼ 77°**

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:13 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is bringing a few showers to the Marianas this morning. Once it passes, probably Wednesday or Wednesday night, the weather will really dry out. Opted for non accumulating wording of sprinkles for now. Showers will certainly be light during this time, the question is, will they be that light? A brief trade-wind surge could reach small craft advisory criteria Wednesday night through Thursday night. While a high surf advisory is not expected, we could get a high risk of rip currents.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Showers	85°	/	77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Chuuk	Showers	84°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84°	/	78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84°	/	78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	81°	/	64°
Beijing	Sunny	43°	/	19°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72°	/	63°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	79°	/	66°
London	Showers	46°	/	45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66°	/	47°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90°	/	75°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	79°	/	59°
Miami	Sunny	79°	/	71°
New York	Partly Cloudy	51°	/	45°
Osaka	Showers	52°	/	37°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	45°	/	41°
Busan	Cloudy	46°	/	34°
Rome	Showers	52°	/	34°
Salem	Cloudy	66°	/	58°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	56°	/	44°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	39°	/	21°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55°	/	37°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	58°	/	50°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
1:04 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.14
7:56 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.78
1:27 PM	LOW TIDE	1.06
6:25 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:41 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:19 am	5:00 pm	-
Thursday	6:04 am	5:50 pm	-
Friday	6:47 am	6:40 pm	-
Saturday	7:29 am	7:31 pm	-
Sunday	8:10 am	8:21 pm	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7							

Trump OKs American Samoa emergency declaration

President Donald J. Trump last Sunday declared that an emergency exists in the territory of American Samoa and ordered

federal assistance to supplement response efforts in the territory due to the emergency conditions resulting from Tropical

Storm Gita beginning on Feb. 7, 2018, and continuing.

Trump's action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate all disaster relief efforts. This action will help alleviate the hardship and suf-

fering caused by the emergency on the local population, and provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat

of a catastrophe in the territory of American Samoa.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize, and provide, at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures, limited

to direct federal assistance, will be provided at 75 percent federal funding.

Brock Long, FEMA administrator, named Benigno Bern Ruiz as the Federal coordinating officer for federal recovery operations in the affected areas. (PR)

\$595 seized from Dynasty to be paid to crash survivors' lawyer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy has ordered the clerk of court to pay over to the trust account of a lawyer for two plane crash survivors the \$594.84 that the U.S. Marshals Service seized in 2016 from bank accounts of the owner of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

In an order on the disposition of funds last Friday, Kennedy said the \$595.84 the court seized from Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment (HKE) will benefit Tomoyuki Nagata, Dr. Jun Takimoto, and Takimoto's family.

Kennedy said that, since HKE failed to request a hearing on the matter and since those funds remain in the custody of the court, the money will be turned over to the trust account of the plaintiffs' attorney, Richard W. Pierce.

The U.S. Marshals Service was only able to seize \$595.84 from the bank accounts of HKE in October 2016.

The U.S. Marshal Service seized the money shortly after U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the clerk to issue a writ of execution to Pierce in order to collect \$1.4

million from HKE.

In her order, Manglona ordered the clerk to direct the U.S. Marshals Service to levy execution on all funds in HKE's two accounts at Bank of Saipan and any Bank of Guam account it may hold, up to \$1,375,952.71, to satisfy the survivors' judgment.

Manglona issued the order following the survivors' request to seize HKE's assets in two banks after HKE failed to pay on the \$1.4-million court judgment to two plane crash survivors since April 2016.

The U.S. Marshal Service informed the court that they seized a total of \$595.84 from HKE's two Bank of Saipan accounts. No money was seized from Bank of Guam.

In April 2016, Manglona ordered HKE to pay \$606,723.10 to Nagata and \$769,229.61 to Dr. Takimoto and his family to satisfy their settlement agreements.

Pierce said nothing has been paid yet on the \$1,375,952.71 judgment.

Nagata and Takimoto were among the seven passengers of a Piper Cherokee aircraft that crashed on a farm in Upper Dandan en route to Tinian on Aug. 11, 2006. HKE settled the lawsuits filed by the survivors, including one filed by Nagata and Takimoto and his family.



Storm damage in American Samoa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amata welcomes federal disaster assistance

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Aumua Amata (R-A. Samoa) welcomed President Donald J. Trump's response to Tropical Storm Gita and his prompt declaration at Gov. Lolo Moliga's request allowing necessary disaster assistance resources to flow into American Samoa.

"American Samoa was in the path of Tropical Storm Gita and sustained significant damaging winds and excessive rain, along with flooding and other destruction," said

Amata. "Along with everyone on the islands, I was there during the storm, and saw the [damage] firsthand throughout the community that are affecting my neighbors and constituents. I greatly appreciate both Gov. Lolo's prompt request for federal action and President Trump's quick response on behalf of our people, followed by [the Federal Emergency Management Agency's] rapid arrival. This disaster declaration is necessary to allow much-needed

federal funds, equipment and personnel to assist the recovery effort."

As stated in the White House announcement, the President's declaration allows the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency to get involved immediately and coordinate efforts. They are authorized to help "alleviate the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population," along with mobilizing various efforts to "save

lives and to protect property, and public health and safety."

"For many, these [damage] are causing difficult times, and recovery will be costly and always takes time," said Amata. "I'm very pleased to know that federal help is already arriving, and those resources will help restore services. May God bless everyone that sustained [damage], and thank you again to everyone helping out, whether you're just being a good neighbor or a professional disaster response worker." (PR)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

**Kuan Y. Leung dba
KL Auto Shop**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Kuan Y. Leung dba KL Auto Shop is proposing to construct a new structure with 2 service bays for its Auto shop. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 001 H 47 in Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 20, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

**Jiang Zheng Group Inc. dba
Shanghai Guest House**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Jiang Zhen Group dba Shanghai Guest House is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building structure consisting of 8 units to operate a motel. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H.86-1 in Sadog Tasi. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 20, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

**Win Win Construction Co.,
(Saipan), Inc.**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Win Win Construction Co., (Saipan), Inc. is proposing to occupy an existing 3-storey building structure for staff housing. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 22533 in San Antonio. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 20, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Lunar New Year Party

in the Marianas



*Featuring Shanghai Sinma Acrobatic Troupe
and other cultural performance*

Ethnic Food, Celestial Navigation, Canoe Rides, Cultural Games, Arts & Craft



February 15, 2018
Antonio M Borja Amphitheater, Tinian
7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.
Joaquin Baseball Field, Rota
7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.
February 16 - 17, 2018
Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan
5:00p.m. to 10:00p.m.

The Marianas
| Saipan | Tinian | Rota |

Micronesia's largest multi-cultural Lunar New Year Party

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Saipan Tribune
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Business

Trump's budget balloons deficits, cuts social safety net

WASHINGTON (AP)—

President Donald Trump unveiled a \$4.4 trillion budget plan Monday that envisions steep cuts to America's social safety net but mounting spending on the military, formally retreating from last year's promises to balance the federal budget.

The president's spending outline for the first time acknowledges that the Republican tax overhaul passed last year would add billions to the deficit and not "pay for itself" as Trump and his Republican allies asserted. If enacted as proposed, though no presidential budget ever is, the plan would establish an era of \$1 trillion-plus yearly deficits.

The open embrace of red ink is a remarkable public reversal for Trump and his party, which spent years objecting to President Barack Obama's increased spending during the depths of the Great Recession. Rhetoric aside, however, Trump's pattern is in line with past Republican presidents who have overseen spikes in deficits as they simultaneously increased military spending and cut taxes.

"We're going to have the strongest military we've ever had, by far," Trump said in an Oval Office appearance Monday. "In this budget we took care of the military like it's never been taken care of before."

Trump's budget revived his calls for big cuts to domestic programs that benefit the poor and middle class, such as food stamps, housing subsidies and student loans. Retirement benefits would remain mostly untouched by Trump's plan, as he has pledged, though Medicare providers would absorb about \$500 billion in cuts—a nearly 6 percent reduction. Some beneficiaries in Social Security's disability program would have to re-enter the workforce under proposed changes to eligibility rules.

While all presidents' budgets are essentially dead on arrival—Congress writes and enacts its own spending legislation—Trump's plan was dead before it landed. It came just three days after the president signed a bipartisan agreement that set broad parameters for spending over the next two years. That deal, which includes large increases



President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with state and local officials about infrastructure in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Feb. 12, 2018. AP

for domestic programs, rendered Monday's Trump plan for 10-year, \$1.7 trillion cuts to domestic agencies such as the departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development even more unrealistic.

The White House used Monday's event to promote its long-awaited plan to increase funding for infrastructure. The plan would put up \$200 billion in federal money over the next 10 years in hopes of leveraging a total of \$1.5 trillion in infrastructure spending, relying on state and local governments and the private sector to contribute the bulk of the funding.

But after his aides talked up that plan over the weekend, Trump suggested that his infrastructure proposal wasn't a big deal for him.

"If for any reason, they don't want to support to it, hey, that's going to be up to them," he said of the Republican-controlled Congress. "What was very important to me was the military; what was very important to me was the tax cuts."

Trump also is proposing work requirements for several federal programs, including housing subsidies, food stamps and Medicaid. Such ideas have backing from powerful figures in Congress including Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, who promises action on a "workforce devel-

opment" agenda this year.

There was immediate opposition from Democrats.

"The Trump budget proposal makes clear his desire to enact massive cuts to health care, anti-poverty programs and investments in economic growth to blunt the deficit-expanding impact of his tax cuts for millionaires and corporations," said Rep. John

Yarmuth of Kentucky, the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

Some Republicans, on the other hand, said spending was much too high.

"This budget continues too much of Washington's wasteful spending—it does not balance in ten years, and it creates a deficit of over a trillion dollars next year," said Rep. Matt

Gaetz of Florida. "We cannot steal from America's future to pay for spending today."

Trump's plan aims at other familiar targets. It would eliminate the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The administration

wants NASA out of the International Space Station by 2025 and private businesses running the place instead.

But the domestic cuts would be far from enough to make up for the plummeting tax revenue projected in the budget.

Trump's plan sees a 2019 deficit of \$984 billion, though White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney admits \$1.2 trillion is more plausible after last week's congressional budget pact and \$90 billion worth of disaster aid is tacked on. That would be more than double the 2019 deficit the administration promised last year.

All told, the new budget sees accumulating deficits of \$7.2 trillion over the coming decade; Trump's plan last year projected a 10-year shortfall of \$3.2 trillion. And that's assuming Trump's rosy economic predictions come true and Congress follows through—in an election year—with politically toxic cuts to social programs, farm subsidies and Medicare providers.

Conservatives lash out at GOP spending binge

NEW YORK (AP)—The GOP is the party of fiscal responsibility no more.

That's according to some conservatives who are grappling with a Republican-backed spending binge that threatens to generate trillion-dollar deficits for years to come while staining a cherished pillar of the modern-day Republican Party.

While President Donald Trump and his allies hope economic growth may ease future deficits, few fiscal conservatives cheered Monday's release of the president's \$4 trillion-plus budget, which would create \$7.2 trillion in red ink over the next decade if adopted by Congress. That follows congressional passage of last week's \$400 billion spending pact, along with massive tax cuts, which some analysts predict will

push deficits to levels not in generations.

Deficit hawks in Congress and conservative activists who railed against President Barack Obama's spending plans called the GOP debt explosion "dangerous," "immoral" and "a betrayal."

American Conservative Union chairman Matt Schlapp warned the Republican-controlled Congress not to underestimate the impact of responsible spending for voters.

"If the Republicans in Congress don't realize that spending control is one of the most important issues that our winning coalition cares about, if they are cavalier about spending decisions, I think we do risk our ability to go to the voters and say it matters to have us in the majority," he said.

The conservative backlash

against government spending comes at a delicate moment for Trump's Republican Party.

Barely a year into his first term, the populist president has shown inconsistent commitment at best to the three planks that have defined his party since the Reagan era: fiscal responsibility, traditional family values and a strong national defense.

With the GOP's fiscal responsibility now in question, the party's commitment to family values also continues to suffer as Trump and some high-profile allies struggle under the weight of repeated allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse.

Fiscal discipline has long helped unify an otherwise divided GOP, but that no longer appears to be the case as Republicans brace for a difficult midterm election season.

Americans for Prosperity, the political arm of the network backed by the conservative billionaires Charles and David Koch, described the recent spending from Trump and Congress "a far cry from the so-called fiscal responsibility Americans heard on the campaign trail."

Voters may forgive Trump's spending habits because he's new to Washington, but they will not be as kind to Republicans on the midterm ballots, said David McIntosh, president of the conservative Club for Growth, who lashed out at last week's Republican-backed spending plan as "of the swamp, by the swamp and for the swamp."

"They're not going to give a pass to the Republicans in Congress unless they start doing something to restrain the growth of government," he said.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
24,601.27
+410.37
+1.70%)

S&P
2,656.00
+36.45
+1.39%)

NASDAQ
6,981.96
+107.47
+1.56%)

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.2710	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8212	Russian Ruble	57.7638
British Pound	0.7214	Indian Rupee	63.6318	Singapore Dollar	1.3227
Canadian Dollar	1.2570	Japanese Yen	108.1370	South Korean Won	1,059.38
Chinese Yuan	6.2180	Malaysian Ringgit	3.8907	Swiss Franc	0.9363
Euro	0.8117	New Zealand Dollar	1.3742	Taiwan Dollar	28.8133
		Philippine Peso	50.9003	Thailand Baht	31.4665

Nation

Senate leaders predict a tough time getting immigration deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate's two top leaders put on a show of comradery as their chamber launched its immigration debate, but also laid down markers underscoring how hard it will be to reach a deal that can move through Congress.

"We really do get along, despite what you read in the press," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Monday at a previously scheduled appearance alongside his counterpart, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., at the University of Louisville.

There was even ribbing when Schumer presented McConnell with a bottle of bourbon made in his home New York City borough of Brooklyn. McConnell, whose state knows a thing or two about bourbon, proclaimed, "There's no such thing as Brooklyn bourbon."

But just days after the two leaders brokered a bipartisan \$400 billion budget agreement and helped shepherd it into law, both men made clear that an immigration agreement will be tough.

"The time for political posturing is behind us," McConnell said later Monday on the Senate floor. He said while Democrats have called for "swift action" on immigration, "Now's the time to back up the talk with the hard work of finding a solution."

That, he pointedly said, would mean passage by the Senate and the House of a measure "which the president will sign."

McConnell expressed his



A P
Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., second from left, speaks accompanied by Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., left, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., and Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, speaks during a news conference about an immigration bill on Capitol Hill, Monday, Feb. 12, 2018 in Washington.

support for a wide-ranging proposal by President Donald Trump that the Senate is expected to vote on this week. It would pave a path to citizenship for up to 1.8 million young "Dreamer" immigrants in the U.S. illegally, a lure for Democrats that many Republicans oppose.

Trump also wants \$25 billion for Trump's border wall with Mexico and other security measures, as well as curbs on legal immigration—a must for many Republicans. Many Democrats consider some of the proposals, including limiting the relatives that legal immigrants can bring to the U.S.,

to be non-starters.

In his own remarks on the Senate floor, Schumer expressed opposition to such a sweeping approach.

"The only enemy here is overreach," Schumer said. "Now is not the time nor the place to reform the entire legal immigration system. Rather, this is the time for a narrow bill"—which Democrats have said would help the Dreamers and provide some money for border security.

The comments came as the Senate voted 97-1—Ted Cruz, R-Texas, provided the sole "no" vote—to plunge into an open-ended immigration de-

bate that's been promised by McConnell. Both parties' leaders hope debate can be concluded this week, but it's unclear if that will happen or what the product, if any, will be.

"This is going to be done or not done this week," No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas told reporters.

Lawmakers' focus will be the Dreamers, hundreds of thousands of young immigrants who have lived in the U.S. illegally since being brought here as children.

They had been given temporary protection from deportation by President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for

Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA. Trump has said he'll end that program March 5, though a federal court has temporarily blocked him from scuttling it.

Trump's overall immigration plan, opposed by many Democrats, stands little

chance of prevailing because any measure will need 60 votes. That means proposals will need substantial bipartisan support since the GOP majority is 51-49, and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has been absent in recent weeks battling cancer.

Highlighting the partisan gap, there was plenty of finger-pointing Monday.

Trump put the onus on Democrats, saying, "I hope the Democrats are not going to use it just as a campaign" issue.

No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Richard Durbin of Illinois said the key impediment to a bipartisan deal was Trump's history of switching positions on the issue.

"Nailing the president down has been next to impossible," he said.

Bomber faces life in prison for New York, New Jersey attacks

NEW YORK (AP)—Ahmad Khan Rahimi, who was born in Afghanistan but lived in New Jersey, injured 30 people when one of his pressure cooker bombs exploded in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood on a September night in 2016. A second bomb planted nearby did not detonate.

That blast happened just hours after a small pipe bomb exploded along a Marine Corps road race in Seaside Heights, New Jersey, frightening participants but injuring no one.

The bombings triggered a two-day manhunt that ended in a shootout with police in Linden, New Jersey. Rahimi was shot several times but survived.

Federal prosecutors said in presentence papers that Rahimi has not shown remorse and has tried to radicalize fellow prisoners at the federal jail in New York where he has been imprisoned since his arrest.

"He is proud of what he did, scornful of the American justice system, and as dedicated as ever to his terrorist ideology," they wrote.

Rahimi, prosecutors said, gave inmates copies of terror-

ist propaganda and jihadist materials, including speeches and lectures by al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden and Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S.-born cleric who inspired attacks on America and was killed in a U.S. air-strike in September 2011.

Rahimi also allowed some inmates to view materials on his laptop or provided electronic copies as he spread "The Book of Jihad," bomb-making instructions and various issues of a propaganda magazine.

Defense attorney Xavier Donaldson said that before the attacks, Rahimi, a naturalized U.S. citizen, aspired to be a police officer and worked as a security guard after studying criminal justice at a community college.

"It was Mr. Rahimi's belief that he could help people while employed in a position that would guarantee him some type of pension," Donaldson wrote.

While imprisoned, Rahimi has completed classes in business, entrepreneurship and drama, Donaldson wrote.

Rahimi is scheduled to be sentenced by a federal judge in Manhattan.

ACROSS THE NATION

Grand Canyon copter crashed on tribal land with fewer rules

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—A helicopter crash that killed three British tourists and left four others critically injured happened on tribal land in the Grand Canyon where air tours are not as highly regulated as those inside the national park. The group of friends was in Las Vegas to celebrate a birthday and took a helicopter sightseeing tour of the Grand Canyon on the Hualapai reservation, family and friends said. Killed were veterinary receptionist Becky Dobson, 27; her boyfriend Stuart Hill, a 30-year-old car salesman; and his brother, Jason Hill, a 32-year-old lawyer. Unlike the national park, air tours on the Hualapai reservation are not subject to federal regulations that restrict routes, impose curfews and cap the amount of flights over the Grand Canyon each year. The Federal Aviation Administration granted the Hualapai Tribe an exemption nearly two decades ago after finding that the

regulations would harm the tribe's economy where tourism is a major driver. Most of the flights over the reservation originate from Las Vegas, and air tour operators aggressively market them. The pilots can fly between canyon walls and land at the bottom next to the Colorado River on the reservation, which isn't allowed at the park other than for emergency operations.

Police: Florida officers fatally shoot armed 84-year-old man

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say Florida police officers fatally shot an elderly man who had been threatening to kill himself. A Miami-Dade Police Department news release says officers responded to a Homestead-area apartment complex Monday afternoon after a report of an 84-year-old who was armed and threatening to take his own life. Police say four officers opened fire on the armed man and rescue workers determined he died at the scene. The release says

the dead man and three of the officers were white, and one of the officers was black. Police weren't immediately releasing their names.

14 worms pulled from woman's eye after rare infection

NEW YORK (AP)—An Oregon woman who had worms coming out of her eye is being called the first known human case of a parasitic infection spread by flies. Fourteen tiny worms were removed from the left eye of the 26-year-old woman in August 2016. Scientists reported the case Monday. The woman, Abby Beckley, was diagnosed in August 2016 with Thelazia gulosa. That's a type of eye worm seen in cattle in the northern United States and southern Canada, but never before in humans. They are spread by a type of fly known as "face flies." The flies feed on the tears that lubricate the eyeball, scientists said. She had been horseback riding and fishing in Gold Beach, Oregon, a coastal, cattle-farming area.

Asia

Duterte warns he'll order navy to fire if sea wealth taken

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—

The Philippine president says he has no intention of going into war over territorial feuds but will order the navy to fire if other countries extract resources from waters within his country's exclusive economic zone.

President Rodrigo Duterte told a news conference late Friday that the Philippines will continue talks with China over disputed South China Sea territories. He also stressed the Philippines' sovereign rights over Benham Rise, a vast offshore frontier off his country's northeast.

"But just the same, we cannot fight America, just like China. I'll just keep quiet," Duterte said. "But if you get something there from the economic zone, I will order the navy to fire."

Duterte was referring to the country's 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone, a stretch of sea where coastal states have been granted exclusive rights to exploit natural resources under a 1982 U.N. treaty. Foreign ships, however, could pass through those waters but could not fish or extract oil and gas from the under the seabed.

There were no immediate comments from U.S. or Chinese embassy officials.

Duterte recently ordered an end to all foreign scientific research missions in Benham, which his government has renamed Philippine Rise, and asked the navy and air force

Year after Kim's killing, suspected masterminds evade trial

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Lost in the glare of North Korea's missile launches, rhetorical battles with Washington and charm offensive at the Winter Olympics, two women stand accused of a crime that could send them to the gallows—the stunning assassination of Kim Jong Un's estranged half brother.

It's a crime the young Southeast Asian women almost certainly had a part in—possibly without even knowing it.

But just as certainly, the slaying of Kim Jong Nam one year ago Tuesday must have required a bigger cast of characters. People who could do the meticulous planning, procure the deadly and exotic poison and carefully wait for the exact moment to act so no one would die other than the unwitting target in a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Masterminds, in other words. Professional killers.

And those suspects are all long gone.



AP

A protester, wearing boat-shaped paper hat, holds a flag during a rally at the Chinese Consulate to protest China's alleged continued militarization of the disputed islands in the South China Sea known as Spratlys Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018 in the financial district of Makati city east of Manila, Philippines.

to patrol the waters. Some believe the waters could be harboring undersea gas and oil deposits aside from its rich fishing grounds.

"I'm putting notice to the world that the Philippine Rise, which we call Benham Rise, is ours ... and the economic zone is ours," Duterte said.

Benham Rise, which faces the Pacific Ocean, is approxi-

mately 24 million hectares (59 million acres) in size and encompasses the Philippines' exclusive economic zone and continental shelf further out in the ocean.

Philippine security officials raised concerns about intrusions when a Chinese ship was monitored crisscrossing the waters early last year, drawing public attention to the territory.

Instead, the sole defendants in one of the highest-profile political hits in decades are Siti Aisyah, 25, of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong, 29, of Vietnam. Both are accused of smearing the VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face last Feb. 13. The poison, developed for military use, is so potent that Kim was dead within two hours.

From the start of their trial last October, the women, who before getting caught up in the assassination plot left rural poverty to work in Southeast Asia's nightlife scene, have claimed they were duped into playing what they thought was a harmless prank for a hidden-camera show. They face a mandatory death sentence by hanging if convicted.

Lawyers for the women say their defense has been handicapped by a sloppy investigation and by the very conspicuous absence of the suspected North Korean masterminds.

"As long as the North Koreans are away, the actu-

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said Tuesday that all foreign scientific groups, including from China, Japan, South Korea and the

United States, have concluded their research work in the waters and Duterte wanted future research missions to be done by Filipinos.

North Korea seeks again legal forum to clarify UN sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—North Korea again asked U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday to organize an international forum of legal experts to clarify the legality of increasingly tough Security Council sanctions,

which it says are erasing its people's "right of existence."

A press statement from North Korea's U.N. Mission said the intensified sanctions resolutions spurred by the United States and its followers are imposing a "blockade" and violate the country's sovereignty and international law.

The mission accused the Security Council of "uncivilized behavior" by trying to bring North Korean society back "to the old history of medium darkness," and "by totally denying the rights of existence and development of our people and destroying whole civilized culture."

North Korea first asked the U.N. Secretariat, which Guterres heads, to organize a legal forum a year ago and it says it sent five letters to the secretary-general and met with him and the U.N. political and legal chiefs.

But the mission said the request was rejected on grounds

that the Security Council is authorized by the U.N. Charter to determine what constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

The council has determined that North Korea's nuclear and missile tests, which have become increasingly sophisticated, constitute such a threat. In response, it has imposed increasingly harsh sanctions that now bar over 90 percent of the country's exports and most imports.

But U.N. experts monitoring sanctions said in a recent report that North Korea is flouting U.N. sanctions on oil and gas, engaging in prohibited ballistic missile cooperation with Syria and Myanmar, and illegally exporting commodities that brought in nearly \$200 million in just nine months last year. Pyongyang is also still able to access the global financial system through "deceptive practices combined with critical deficiencies in the implementation of financial sanctions," they said. The mission's statement on Monday, accusing the U.S. and the Security Council of "barbarous state-sponsored terrorism," says an international forum including "all government and non-govern-

ment" Benham Rise lies on the other side of the Philippine archipelago from where Manila, Beijing and four other governments have been locked for decades in territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Critics have questioned why the Duterte administration allowed a group from China to undertake scientific research in the waters given Manila's long-simmering territorial conflict with Beijing in the South China Sea. China has also defied and refuses to comply with an international arbitration ruling that invalidated its claim in virtually all of the South China Sea on historical grounds.

Dozens of left-wing activists protested Saturday in front of the Chinese consulate in metropolitan Manila, some wearing red boat-shaped paper hats with the Chinese flag's markings and the message: "China out." They expressed alarm over China's installation of defense and military equipment on its artificial islands in the South China Sea's Spratly archipelago.

"If you can claim a whole of an ocean, do not mess up with me with my economic zone here," Duterte said, apparently referring to China.

North Korea seeks again legal forum to clarify UN sanctions

ment-level lawyers and international legal organizations" could be the right place to clarify the legality of the sanctions resolutions.

It reiterates four points for legal experts to consider:

■ Do U.N. resolutions prohibiting North Korea's satellite launches conform with international law, which stipulates "that the peaceful use of outer space is an inalienable sovereignty of states?"

■ Are sanctions resolutions prohibiting North Korea's nuclear tests legal when there is not yet an international law totally banning nuclear test?

■ Do veto-wielding permanent members of the council who prevent a nuclear test ban treaty from coming into force "have any moral justification to prohibit the tests of other countries?"

■ Is the Security Council imposing a "double-standard" by imposing sanctions on North Korea for its nuclear tests and satellite launches "without taking issue with such tests and launches by other countries?"

North Korea noted that the U.N. Charter recognizes "the principles of sovereign equality and the right to self-defense of countries."

World

US tells anti-ISIS coalition to ‘keep eyes on prize’

KUWAIT CITY (AP)—The Trump administration, increasingly concerned that the 74-strong coalition it cobbled together to destroy the Islamic State group is losing sight of the prime objective, is pressing its partners to refocus efforts, overcome rivalries and concentrate on the task at hand: the eradication from Iraq and Syria of the extremist group.

The alarm U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson plans to sound at a coalition gathering in Kuwait on Tuesday comes with the fight at a critical moment and the mission shifting from offensive military operations to stabilization. Distractions are adding up, such as Turkey’s fighting with U.S.-backed Kurdish rebels in Syria and renewed spillover from Syria’s civil war. Meanwhile, hostilities between noncoalition actors—Iran, its proxies in Syria, and Israel—risk creating a new conflict in an already crowded battlespace.

What will Tillerson’s message to America’s allies be, U.S. officials say? “Eyes have to be on the prize.” The prize, according to one senior official: “The enduring defeat of ISIS.”

Anything that hinders that goal also gets in the way of broader objectives like a political transition in Syria that



Secretary of State Rex Tillerson speaks during a press conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry after their meeting, at Tahrir Palace, in Cairo, Egypt, Monday, Feb. 12, 2018. AP

Official: US believes ex-Venezuela oil czar took bribes

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—U.S. prosecutors believe that Venezuela’s former oil czar and ambassador to the United Nations received bribes as part of an alleged multibillion-dollar graft scheme in the South America nation’s oil industry, an official familiar with the U.S. investigation said Monday.

Rafael Ramirez, who was one of Venezuela’s most powerful officials until he resigned from the U.N. post in December, was named as a bribe recipient although not charged in an indictment against five other former senior officials that was partially unsealed.

In Monday’s indictment, prosecutors in Houston allege two of the charged individuals told businessmen that proceeds from bribe payments they made in exchange for quick payments and contracts with Venezuela’s state-run oil giant PDVSA would be shared with a senior Venezuelan official, identified in the unsealed portion as “Official B.”

That unidentified Venezuelan politician is Ramirez, a U.S. official told The Associ-

ated Press. The official agreed to talk about the case only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

In 2016, Venezuela’s opposition-led National Assembly said \$11 billion went missing at PDVSA in the 2004-2014 period, when Ramirez was in charge of the company. In 2015, the U.S. Treasury Department accused a bank in Andorra of laundering some \$2 billion stolen from PDVSA.

Ramirez in the past has denied any wrongdoing and dismissed the U.S. probe into PDVSA as a politically motivated attempt to undermine President Nicolas Maduro’s socialist government. After resigning his U.N. post, Ramirez left the United States for an undisclosed location, and he did not immediately respond to a request Monday seeking comment.

Prosecutors in the U.S. as well as Venezuela have been slowly closing in on his inner circle.

Among those charged Monday was PDVSA’s former

chief of corporate security, Rafael Reiter, who frequently appeared alongside Ramirez in public. Another was a former deputy energy minister, Nervis Villalobos, who stood in as head of PDVSA when Ramirez was on official business abroad. Both Reiter and Villalobos were arrested in Spain in October on U.S. warrants and are pending extradition along with a third former official, Luis Carlos de Leon.

Separately, Ramirez is also the target of a criminal investigation in Venezuela for taking a cut of oil contracts brokered by associates including his cousin, Diego Salazar, who was arrested in December. Ramirez has called the Venezuelan probe retaliation for his decision to break with Maduro, who he has accused of running Venezuela’s once-thriving oil industry into the ground and abandoning the socialist ideals of the late Hugo Chavez.

Much of the evidence gathered by U.S. prosecutors stems from a case in Houston against two Venezuelan businessmen residing in the United States,

ultimately leads to an end of the war and blunts Iranian behavior throughout the region. “It’s complicated enough as it is. Let’s not make it more so,” the official said in describing the administration’s view.

That official and others who previewed Tillerson’s objectives for the meeting were not authorized to do so publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Rising tensions between the U.S. and NATO ally Turkey over Turkish military operations against the Kurds are a primary concern and Tillerson will end his five-nation swing through the region in Ankara on Friday after stops in Jordan and Lebanon. Turkey’s foreign minister said Monday that Tillerson’s visit, which follows a similar trip by national security adviser H.R. McMaster, comes at a make or break time for relations.

“Our relations are at a very critical stage,” Melvut Cavusoglu said. “Either we will improve ties or these ties will totally break down.”

Ankara is riled over Washington’s support for the Syrian Kurdish People’s Protection

Units, or YPG - the top U.S. ally in the fight against the Islamic State group. Turkey considers the YPG a “terrorist” group linked to Kurdish insurgents fighting within Turkey’s own borders.

The U.S. officials allowed that the talks in Ankara would be difficult. But they maintained, as Tillerson and others have in the past, that the U.S. appreciates Turkey’s legitimate security concerns. However, they also stressed that addressing those should not come at the expense of the anti-IS mission. If the Kurds feel threatened, the officials said, they will move their forces away from Islamic State fronts, prolonging the fight.

In addition to keeping the fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria on the front burner, Tuesday’s meetings will also focus on preventing the spread into Europe and elsewhere of retreating IS fighters, according to the officials. The coalition plans to unveil a blueprint for boosting intelligence and information sharing and law enforcement cooperation to halt the flow of those fighters, the officials said.

Ukraine deports opposition leader Saakashvili to Poland

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Opposition leader Mikheil Saakashvili was deported from Ukraine to Poland on Monday after being detained by armed, masked men at a restaurant in Kiev and rushed to the airport, Ukrainian officials and his supporters said.

Ukraine’s border guard agency had to use force to counter Saakashvili’s supporters at the Kiev airport, Oleh Slobodyan, a spokesman for the agency, said on Facebook.

He confirmed the deportation of the former Georgian president-turned-Ukrainian opposition leader, citing rulings by Ukrainian courts that said Saakashvili was staying in the country illegally.

Sakashvili called the move “a kidnapping.”

Sakashvili was stripped of Ukrainian citizenship while he was abroad last year, but he forced his way back into the country from Poland in September. Since then, he has led repeated protests against Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and the official corruption that still plagues the country.

Poland’s border guards said on the agency’s website that

Sakashvili was admitted to Polish territory Monday at the request of Ukrainian immigration authorities.

He was permitted into Poland as the spouse of a European Union citizen, the Polish guards said. Saakashvili’s wife is Dutch, and both the Netherlands and Poland are EU nations.

Upon his arrival in Poland, Saakashvili said his deportation showed Poroshenko’s weakness. He denounced the Ukrainian president as a “sneaky speculator who wants to destroy Ukraine” in a Facebook statement.

Sakashvili, Georgia’s president from 2004-13, came to Ukraine after his presidency ended as an ally of Poroshenko, who appointed him governor of the southern Odessa region. He resigned from that post in 2016 and harshly criticized Poroshenko for failing to stem corruption.

“I was very nicely met by Polish side, and Ukrainian side was absolutely outrageous, total lawlessness—it was a kidnapping, illegal one. But Poles are very good and I am very grateful,” Saakashvili told Polish Radio RMF FM as he left Warsaw Airport.

A black and white photograph of a man's face in profile, looking towards the right. He has dark hair and is wearing a light-colored shirt. In the background, there is a faint, arched structure with the words "IN LOVING MEMORY" visible. The overall composition is a memorial portrait.

Lovingly known as “JOHN/CHIEF”

Born to Life: March 28, 1949 • Called to Eternal Life: February 12, 2018

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father: †Alejandro Reyes Evangelista
Mother: †Vicenta Mendiola Lizama Evangelista
Brothers: †Francisco Lizama Evangelista
 †Ramon Lizama Evangelista

He will be forever missed by his:

Children & Grandchildren: William & Aylene Evangelista (Mel John)
Alexandro & Grace Evangelista (Adria & Alexa)
Giancarlo Pierre & Christine Evangelista (Gianna Marie & Christian Juan)

Reared Child:

Reared Child: Marcial John (Beau) T. Borja
Sisters/Brother/In-laws: Maria Ramona Lizama Evangelista Indalecio & Manuel Aldan Indalecio
Barbara C. Babauta (†Edward Babauta), Children & Grandchildren
Mr. & Mrs. Joaquin Lizama & Children

Nieces & Nephews: Mr. & Mrs. Joaquin Lizarra & Children
Lucia B. Quitugua (Vincent Manglona), Children & Grandchildren
Joan D. Aldan (Francisco Aldan), Children & Grandchildren
Arlene I. Reyes (Nick Reyes), Children & Grandchildren
Tina E. Indalecio (†Frankie B. Castro), Children & Grandchildren
Raymond E. Indalecio (Leovanie C. Indalecio), Children & Grandchildren
Everette E. Indalecio (Naydine Aguon), Children & Grandchildren
Fatima I. Borja (Joseph Borja), Children & Grandchildren

Special Family Friend:

He will also be missed by numerous grandnieces & nephews, godchildren, cousins, relatives & L&T and Rev & Tax friends.

Daily mass is at Sta. Soledad Church at 6pm and on Sunday at 6am & 8:30am.

Please join us in sharing our final moments with our beloved †John on Tuesday, February 20, 2018. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Interment Service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank You & Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Evangelista – Indalecio Family

Life & Style

Obama jokes he failed to get artist to give him smaller ears

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Barack Obama speaks, people listen. At least they did when he was in the White House. But that kind of authority didn't hold much sway when it came time for his presidential portrait.

At a ceremony Monday to unveil portraits of him and former first lady Michelle Obama, the former president said artist Kehinde Wiley cheerfully ignored almost all of his suggestions.

"He listened very thoughtfully to what I had to say before doing exactly what he always intended to do," he said. "I tried to negotiate less gray hair, but Kehinde's artistic integrity would not allow it. I

tried to negotiate smaller ears and struck out on that as well."

The final product depicts Obama sitting in a straight-backed chair, leaning forward and looking serious while surrounded by greenery and flowers. Michelle Obama's portrait, painted by Amy Sherald, shows her in a black and white dress looking thoughtful with her hand on her chin.

Both artists were personally chosen by the Obamas.

The portraits will now hang in the National Portrait Gallery, which is part of the Smithsonian group of museums. The gallery has a complete collection of presidential portraits. A different set of portraits of the former first couple



will eventually hang in the White House.

"I am humbled, I am honored, I am proud," Michelle Obama said. "Young people, particularly girls and girls of color, in future years they will

come to this place and see someone who looks like them hanging on the walls of this incredible institution."

Barack Obama spoke of his choice of Wiley, saying the two men shared multiple par-

AP
Former President Barack Obama, center, stands on stage during the unveiling of the Obama's official portraits at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, Monday, Feb. 12, 2018, in Washington.

allels in their upbringing; both had African fathers who were largely absent from their lives and American mothers who raised them.

The former president drew multiple laughs from the audience for his remarks, starting out by praising Sherald for capturing, "the grace and beauty and charm and hotness of the woman that I love."

Obama said he found the process of sitting for the portrait to

be a frustrating experience.

"I don't like posing. I get impatient and start looking at my watch," he said, "but working with Kehinde was a great joy."

Wiley said the depiction of Obama surrounded by greenery and flowers was meant to "chart his path on earth" through the choice of flowers. The painting includes chrysanthemums, which are the official flower of Chicago; jasmine to evoke Hawaii, where Obama largely grew up; and African blue lilies to honor Obama's Kenyan father.

"Being the first African-American painter to paint the first African-American president, it doesn't get any better than that," he said.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Judge awards graffiti artists \$6.7M after works destroyed

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge awarded \$6.7 million Monday to graffiti artists who sued after dozens of spray paintings were destroyed on the walls of dilapidated warehouse buildings torn down to make room for high-rise luxury residences. U.S. District Judge Frederic Block in Brooklyn said 45 of the 49 paintings were recognized works of art "wrongfully and willfully destroyed" by a remorseless landlord. Twenty-one aerosol artists had sued the owner of a Long Island City, Queens, site known as 5Pointz under the Visual Rights Act, a 1990 federal

law that protects artists' rights even if someone else owns the physical artwork. Their graffiti was painted over in 2013, and the buildings were torn down a year later. Before they vanished, the graffiti artworks became a tourist attraction, drawing thousands of spectators daily and forming a backdrop to the 2013 movie, "Now You See Me," and a site for an Usher tour, the judge noted.

France gives long-unclaimed artwork to Jewish couple's heirs

PARIS (AP)—A 16th century oil painting that fell into Nazi hands during World War II was returned by France's government to a Jewish

couple's heirs Monday. The Flemish painting "Triptych of the Crucifixion" is attributed to Joachim Patinir and it had sat unclaimed in a French museum for seven decades. French Culture Minister Francoise Nyssen presented it to the grandchildren of Hertha and Henry Bromberg during a ceremony at Paris' culture ministry. The Jewish couple sold works under duress to secure their passage from Nazi Germany to the United States. "The feeling of thanks and gratitude is more valuable than the painting itself," said a grandson, Christopher Bromberg. France has in recent years stepped up efforts to identify the owners of lost or

looted World War II treasures.

NBC says 25.7 million followed Olympic coverage Sunday

NEW YORK (AP)—An estimated 22.8 million people watched NBC's prime-time coverage on Sunday night, the Nielsen company said. Add in people who watched NBCSN's coverage at the same time, or streamed NBC's broadcast online, and the number climbs to 25.7 million. That's pretty close to the 26.3 million who watched NBC for the first Sunday of the Sochi Olympics in 2014. After five days, NBC said it has already broken the mark of minutes streamed online that it had

for the entirety of the Sochi Olympics, or 445 million total minutes streamed this year versus 420 minutes for the Sochi Olympics.

Jay Asher expelled from writer organization over harassment

NEW YORK (AP)—Best-selling children's author Jay Asher has been expelled from a prominent writers organization because of allegations about sexual harassment. Lin Oliver, executive director of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, told The Associated Press on Monday that Asher had violated the society's harassment code.

He was banned last year but the news only came to light with the rise of the #MeToo movement. Asher and prize-winning illustrator David Diaz, who was also kicked out of the organization, were mentioned frequently in a recent comment thread on School Library Journal about harassment in children's publishing. "Both Jay Asher and David Diaz were found to have violated the SCBWI code of conduct in regard to harassment," Oliver wrote in an email. "Claims against them were investigated and, as a result, they are no longer members and neither will be appearing at any SCBWI events in the future."

Couple celebrates 50 years together with Abby's blessing

DEAR ABBY: When I was 16 and wanted to get married, my father suggested I write to Dear Abby (your mom was writing the column back then) and ask her opinion. He said he would agree with what she said. I did, and Abby wrote me back. We did get married, and I decided that on our 25th anniversary, I would let you know how we were doing. You printed my letter.

As we celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary year, I want you to know our marriage has only strengthened. A very young couple who began life together with no idea what path we would take has experienced the best that life could offer. We have two beautiful daughters, wonderful grandchildren and a great-grandchild. We've had success in our careers, traveled the world, visited every state in our great country and can confidently relate that life has been good.

Commitment through the good and bad times is the key to a lasting marriage. It isn't always easy, but the rewards far outweigh the problems.

TOOK THE ADVICE IN MONTANA

DEAR TOOK THE ADVICE: I'm pleased to know you are as happy on your 50th anniversary as you were on your 25th. It's interesting you would say that the key to a lasting marriage is commitment. I would offer that it is also mutual respect. (My mother once said that the key to a lasting marriage is a husband who lasts!)

My warmest congratulations to you both, and a very happy Valentine's Day to you, your husband and to all my readers.

DEAR ABBY: I'm married to a beautiful woman, "Suzanne." We are bodybuilders and into fitness, so we are both quite muscular.

Recently, my wife cut her hair short. It's a great look for her, and we both love the style. Unfortunately, some people have begun calling her "sir" at work and when she's out and about. Suzanne waits tables a couple of nights a week for extra income. Some of the customers have gone so far as to keep calling her "sir" after she has told them that she's female.

This infuriates me because it's so disrespectful. I know it hurts my wife's feelings, although she has been super strong about it. It's plain when you look at Suzanne that she is a beautiful woman.

How can she nip this in the bud before it starts to make her feel bad? I feel a strong need to defend her, and I don't want to get into a physical altercation with anyone over it.

HURT FEELINGS IN FLORIDA

DEAR HURT FEELINGS: Because your wife has a muscular build and a short haircut, it's possible some of the individuals who call her "sir" are making an honest mistake. However, for someone to persist after being informed that she is a woman is extremely rude. (It makes me wonder if the offender has a warped sense of humor or is threatened by her muscular appearance.)

When it happens at work, Suzanne should ask her manager how the situation should be handled rather than allow it to continue. But under no circumstances should you get into a physical altercation because of it. Instead, on the home

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



front, continue to reassure your wife that she's beautiful.

DEAR ABBY: My husband refuses to memorize my cell-phone number. He says as long as it's in his phone he doesn't need to. I feel he should know it so if he loses the phone or the battery goes dead, I can be reached. What do you think?

LOGICAL IN KANSAS

DEAR LOGICAL: Experience is the best teacher. I think you should stop arguing with your husband and let him suffer the consequences. An option might be for him to jot the number on a small piece of paper and keep it in his wallet.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39	Yalie	DOWN	20	Try out
1	Cattle	41	Raw	1	Luuu
group	minerals			22	Classic
5	Even so	43	Raptor's	entertain-	theaters
8	Power co.	46	Waffle	23	Vernacu-
supply	claws		topper	tular	lar
12	Addict	47	Starting	25	Praise in
13	Stop —	50	Dime	verse	verse
dime		51	Daily	26	Base-
14	"The Lion	Planet	package	ball's	ball's
King" lion	reporter		cooler	Hodges	Hodges
15	Gambler's	54	Fast	27	From
best	time		time	cradle	grave
friend?		55	Constitu-	to	grave
17	Use	tion	5	grave	grave
scissors	letters		One	29	Equal
18	Sound	56	"Exodus"	31	Nap site
19	Chopin	author	Env.	32	Conditi-
pieces	57	Shrewd	insert	34	Clone
21	Hip	58	Jewel	38	Sanctu-
24	Slithery	59	"Take	40	ary
fish			10	Like	powder
25	Leer at	Writer	Wiesel	41	some
28	Quick			42	goals
swims		11	Beanies	43	Body
30	Kimono	16	leader"	44	powder
closer			16	45	Cruising
33	Cato's			46	Punch
502				47	Exceptional
34	Doctrine			48	Squad
35	Game			49	Mexican
official				52	money
36	Sprite				suffix
37	Carry on			53	Belief

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Bledsoe, 46; Simon Pegg, 48; Meg Tilly, 58; Terri Gross, 67.

Happy Birthday: Put more muscle behind what you do. Think and take action and you will accomplish your goals. Wit, intellect and knowing when to say "no" will be the combination that leads to greater opportunities and personal and professional success. Don't doubt what you can accomplish when all you need to do is stay focused and keep moving forward. Your numbers are 4, 15, 23, 28, 35, 41, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can dominate in your field if you are cognizant of what's going on around you and know your limitations mentally, physically and financially. Change should begin within, not by trying to alter what others do or think. ★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your energy to good use. Refuse to let emotions take over and lead you into battle against someone you could really use on your team. Nurture relationships and offer incentives that will ensure future benefits and success. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take ownership of whatever you do. Stand up and be counted and do your best to bring about positive change. Getting angry about things you don't like and actually doing something to make your life better are not the same thing. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take action and do your part to cut back on expenses by searching for a cheaper way to live. Monitor your expenses and be reluctant to

offer a cash donation when hands-on help will be cheaper and more effective. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put more energy into personal accomplishments. Activities geared toward better health through exercise and proper diet will encourage positive change and the courage to reach your goals. A change in your personal finances looks promising. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Money matters, taxes, health issues and settlements should all be looked at carefully. Don't let anger get in the way of doing the right thing. Be willing to compromise in order to cut your losses and move on. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Socialize, network and learn all the ins and outs of something that interests you in order to find the best way to achieve your goal. Your ideas are good and will bring about positive change if you go through the right channels. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take the road less traveled. Look for peace of mind and tranquility, not anger and resentment.

How you handle situations that affect your home and family will make a difference to the outcome. Positive thoughts and support are encouraged. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A passionate approach to life will help you bring about positive changes. Use your knowledge and let past experience help you pick and choose what's best for you. Don't let manipulative individuals test your patience or fuel your anger. ★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Channel your energy into something that will encourage you to learn. Take care of important documents, but don't share personal information with others. Refuse to let someone else take care of your affairs. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, engaging and innovative. You are helpful and respected.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your energy to good use. Instead of getting involved in something that benefits someone else, focus on figuring out how you can best keep moving forward. A slow but steady pace is your best objective. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stand up and be counted. Do what you can have to offer to those in a position of power. Navigate your way to success and you will outmaneuver any competition you meet along the way. ★★★

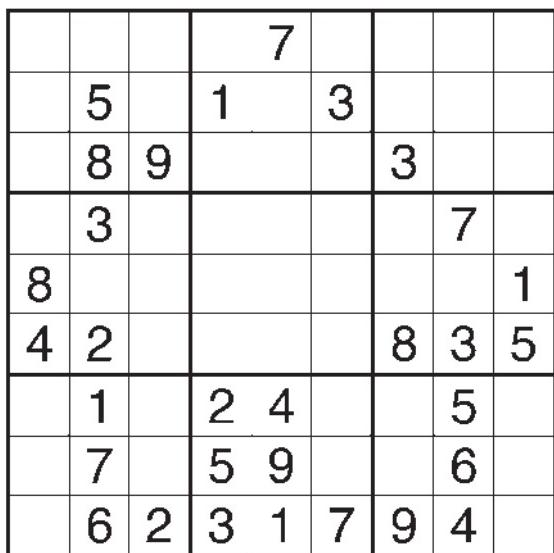
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To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

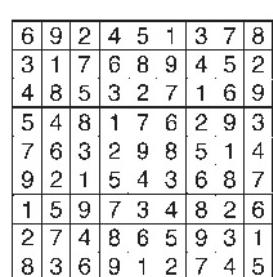
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

COMMON ALLERGIES

D	N	D	L	O	M	U	T	T	O	R	Y
R	E	E	M	A	S	E	S	A	R	I	E
A	T	E	G	G	S	B	T	O	E	R	K
T	U	W	W	E	S	R	L	V	I	O	E
S	L	G	C	E	S	N	A	C	E	P	M
U	G	I	S	E	L	T	E	A	F	S	S
M	P	P	R	H	E	B	L	T	Y	A	T
S	I	C	S	X	E	D	M	S	A	N	A
A	E	L	W	O	O	L	S	U	H	S	D
G	D	D	K	R	A	O	L	G	T	A	R
E	E	S	Y	B	Y	G	P	F	O	I	C
B	E	E	N	E	L	L	O	P	I	D	C
U	R	E	D	N	A	I	R	O	C	S	R
S	U	N	F	L	O	W	E	R	I	A	H
H	O	R	N	E	T	S	S	K	S	A	R

Solution: 6 letters

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Almond, Aspirin, Balm, Bees, Cats, Cedar, Coriander, Corn, Crab, Cress, Deer, Dogs, Dye, Eggs, Elm, Garlic, Gluten, Gold, Grass, Hair, Hay Fever, Heal, Hornets, Latex, Meat, Milk, Mold, Mustard, Mutton, Nsaids, Oats, Pecans, Pigweed, Pine, Pollen, Poppy, Pores, Pork, Rye, Sage, Bush, Seeds, Sesame, Shellfish, Smoke, Soy, Spices, Sunflower, Tree Nuts, Tumbleweed, Wasps, Wool, Wreaths
Yesterday's Answer: Beavertails
Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Love at first sight

United Coop Cleaning Services, LLC needs

Maintenance Building Reparer (2) SOC 499071

Must have atleast 3 years of experience repairing and maintaining physical structures of residential and commercial establishment such as office, buildings, apartments, houses using hand and power tools, including basic plumbing, electrical carpentry and mason skills. References required. Gaps in employment will be viewed unfavorably. Position available starting October 1, 2018. Please email resume to uccslc@gmail.com

Commercial Cleaners (4) SOC 372011

32-40 hours per week on average. Minimum Wage. No benefits. Must have at least 3 years of experience cleaning residential and business establishments. Must have own transportation to and from various customer locations. Reliability and trustworthiness essential. Reference and Police Clearance required. Gaps in employment will be viewed unfavorably. Position available starting October 1, 2018. Please email resume to uccslc@gmail.com

Firm Management Systems, LLC needs

Administrative Assistant (2) SOC 436011

Post-Graduate Degree and 3 years work experience with administrative support for legal and manpower service providers. Extensive knowledge of word processing and billing software mandatory. Must also have bookkeeping, basic tax filing and electronic case filing experience. Reference required. Position available starting October 1, 2018. Please email resume to fmsllc.cnmi@gmail.com

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

- 3-Liner
- 5-Liner

(PRINT)

\$15
\$24

COMBO

(PRINT AND ONLINE)
\$30
\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Accountant

Qualifications: Must be a College Degree with at least five year experience in General Accounting. Must be knowledgeable in the preparation of Financial Statements. Must be knowledgeable in Peach Tree and be able to work flexible hours. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience beginning at \$700.00/semi-monthly.

Interested applicants are requested to fill up the company's application form and submit with a copy of Driver's License at our office in Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Ground Floor no later than February 19, 2018.

PACIFIC MARINE ENTERPRISES INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Welder

DUTIES: Fabricate and assemble metal structures and equipment through the use of welders, cutters, shapers and measuring tools. Welders produce metal products according to customer or employer specifications. They use multiple welding machines to repair and maintain metal equipment and structures of various sizes. Welders read and interpret diagrams, sketches and blueprints to determine operations, required materials and timeframes for projects. Set up, operate and maintain welding equipment. They understand and implement personal and company safety measures by wearing specialized goggles, helmets and gloves.

QUALIFICATIONS: Proven experience as welder. Experience using a variety of welding equipment and procedures (TIG, MMA etc.) Experience in using electrical or manual tools (saws, squares, calipers etc.) Ability to read and interpret technical documents and drawings. Knowledge of relative safety standards and willingness to use protective clothing (face-shield, gloves etc.) Deftness and attention to detail

- ♦ Successful completion of a relevant apprenticeship program is required,
- ♦ Professional Certification (e.g. AWS welding certificate)

HOURLY RATE: Determined based on qualifications

(2) Metal Sheet Fabricator

DUTIES: Fabricates and assembles structural metal products, such as framework or shells for machinery, ovens, tanks, stacks, and metal parts for buildings and bridges according to job order, verbal instructions, and blueprints. Develops layout and plans sequence of operations, applying knowledge of trigonometry, stock allowances for thickness, machine and welding shrinkage, and physical properties of metal. Locates and marks bending and cutting lines onto work piece. Sets up and operates fabricating machines, such as brakes, rolls, shears, flame cutters, and drill presses. Designs and constructs templates and fixtures. Verifies conformance of work piece to specifications, using square, ruler, and measuring tape. May fabricate and assemble sheet metal products. May set up and operate machine tools associated with fabricating shops, such as radial drill press, end mill, and edge planer.

QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum of High school and/or Associate's degree.

- ♦ 3 – 5 related work experience and/or training. MUST be able to report to facility Mon-Fri 8AM – 5PM, Able to work additional overtime hours and some weekends as needed

HOURLY RATE: Determined based on qualifications

(3) Heavy Equipment Operators

DUTIES: Provide support to successful completion of construction and engineering work; Operate all heavy equipment like cranes, earth movers, bulldozers, front-end loaders, and other related equipment. Operate the equipment in the right direction and angles to prevent accidents and damage of property. Ensure and manage the machines or equipment in a safe and secure way. Perform periodical safety, maintenance or servicing checks to ensure proper functioning of the equipment.

- ♦ Perform minor repair works during functioning problems Inform and advise the management or repairmen for major repairs or maintenance Drive and control the equipment Perform road work, excavation work, lifting work, etc.
- ♦ Respond to signals and directions by the staff and work in coordination with them
- ♦ Maintain proper coordination and cooperation with the road and transport system while driving/working, so that the normal activities are not disrupted.
- ♦ Operate the equipment manually and also through the use of electronic or technical methods of operation. Work in adherence to safe practices, procedures, and work site or traffic laws. Report to the senior operation manager Perform other duties, as and when assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: 3 – 7 years work experience. MUST be able to pass a drug and background screen.

- ♦ MUST be able to report to facility Mon-Fri 8AM – 5PM, Able to work additional overtime hours and some weekends as needed

HOURLY RATE: Determined based on qualifications

(3) Painter, General Maintenance and Repair Workers

DUTIES: Participates in general cleaning, painting, and repair work. Uses hand tools and power tools in making minor maintenance repairs and maintaining grounds and walks. Assists in shipping and receiving of supplies and materials. Provides assistance to staff, visitors, and other employees as necessary. Checks building at beginning and end of shifts.

Additional Duties:

- ♦ Receives oral or written orders from Head Custodian and Head of Building Services. Performs work according to standard procedure and by building's operational schedule. Cleans rooms, hallways, restrooms, offices, stairways and windows. Uses brooms, mops, and floor equipment to sweep, mop, strip and wax floors. Uses vacuum cleaners to clean rugs, carpets, upholstered furniture and blinds. Dusts furniture and equipment. Washes walls, ceilings, woodwork, windows, doors and sills. Makes minor carpentry, electrical, mechanical and plumbing repairs. Performs touch up and finish painting. Empties wastebaskets. Replenishes restroom supplies. Replaces light bulbs. Sets up and tears down chairs, tables and equipment in meeting rooms, and function rooms. Opens and closes building according to security procedures. Reports work accomplished orally or on written work order to supervisor.

QUALIFICATIONS: 3 – 7 years work experience. MUST be able to pass a drug and background screen. MUST be able to report to facility Mon-Fri 8AM – 5PM, Able to work additional overtime hours and some weekends as needed

HOURLY RATE: Determined based on qualifications

(3) Auto Motive Diesel Mechanic

DUTIES: Start motors and monitor performance for signs of malfunctioning, such as smoke, excessive vibration, or misfiring. Observe equipment in operation to detect potential problems. Document inspection and test results and work performed or to be performed. Document test results. Mount motors to boats and operate boats at various speeds. Waterways to conduct operational tests. Position equipment using hand tools, power tools, or heavy equipment. Mount motors to boats and operate boats at various speeds on waterways to conduct operational tests. Conduct operational tests. Position equipment using hand tools, power tools, or heavy equipment. Perform routine engine maintenance on motorboats, such as changing oil and filters.

- ♦ Service vehicles to maintain functionality. Inspect and repair or adjust propellers or propeller shafts. Inspect mechanical components of vehicles to identify problems.
- ♦ Repair defective engines or engine components.
- ♦ Read and interpret diagnostic test results from diagnostic equipment such as an oscilloscope, which is used to measure the voltage produced by electronic components
- ♦ Test drive vehicles to diagnose malfunctions
- ♦ Read and interpret diagnostic test results from diagnostic equipment such as an oscilloscope, which is used to measure the voltage produced by electronic components
- ♦ Raise trucks, buses, and heavy parts or equipment by using hydraulic jacks or hoists
- ♦ Inspect brake systems, steering mechanisms, transmissions, engines, and other parts of vehicles
- ♦ Do routine maintenance, such as changing oil, checking batteries, and lubricating equipment and parts
- ♦ Adjust and align wheels, tighten bolts and screws, and attach system components
- ♦ Repair or replace malfunctioning components, parts, and other mechanical or electrical equipment
- ♦ Test-drive vehicles to ensure that they run smoothly

QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum of High school and/or Associate's degree.

- ♦ 3 – 5 related work experience and/or training. MUST be able to report to facility Mon-Fri 8AM – 5PM, Able to work additional overtime hours and some weekends as needed

HOURLY RATE: Determined based on qualifications

Applicants must be able to work on flexible hours with valid driver's license.

Please email resume to pme@pticom.com
or Mail resume at
Pacific Marine Enterprises Inc.
PMB 181 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950
no later than February 25, 2018

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

K FISHMART

(1) Fisherman

If interested, contact 989-2446 to apply.
With valid driver's license required.



EMPLOYMENT

1 Commercial Cleaner, 1 General Maintenance - 3-5 years experience with valid driver's license. Police Clearance required. Email resume to San Vicente Estates at cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ELECTRICIAN

\$7.55/hr 4-years experience

(1) CARPENTER

\$7.55/hr 4-years experience

(1) COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

\$7.55/hr 4-years experience

(1) GENERAL MANAGER

Salary depends on qualification

HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC.

Send resume to hongeei@pticom.com

AUTO MARINE INCORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Accountant

- At least 3 years experience in Accounting
- Literate in PeachTree Accounting
- Prepares Financial Statement
- Other Related Duties

(1) Customer Representative

- At least 2 years experience.
- Can deal with the Tourist Customers
- Received Reservations and Schedule of Boat

(1) Commercial Diver

- At least 3 years experience in Scuba Diving
- Knowledgeable in using diving apparatus
- Should know how to take appropriate safety precaution, and instruct Customers

(1) Mechanic

- At Least 3 years experience in Engine Mechanic
- Repair & Maintain Company Boat & Automobiles

(2) Maintenance Repairer

- At least 2 years experience
- Repair & Maintain
- Company Premises

(1) Motor Boat Mechanic

- At Least 3 years experience in Engine Mechanic
- Overhauling Engine Equipment

Contact Person: Adonis Santos

Contact No.: 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WINCHELL'S DONUTS

1 vacancy for **Store Manager**. Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level and has at least 1 year of continued experience in managing bakery operations; must have knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must be customer-service oriented, computer literate and confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

4 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers**. Wage ranges from \$7.05/hr to \$8.00/hr. Must be a high school graduate with a few months to 1 year experience in baking; must be able to read, write and speak basic English; must be capable of lifting at least 50lbs and has basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese and other foreign languages is highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health with good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards; provide current police/court clearance and health certificate. Must have reliable transportation and willing to undergo drug test.

Please email your resume to

jobapplicant2014@gmail.com

KING'S INC. DBA KING'S JEWELRY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) GOLDSMITH/PRECIOUS METAL WORKER

MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE TO FABRICATE, DESIGN, REPAIR, SIZING, SETTING AND MOUNTING GEM STONE, INCLUDING DIAMOND AND METAL CARVING, HAWAIIAN STYLE.

(1) JEWELRY CASTING TECHNICIAN

TO MAKE MODELS OR MOLD TO CREATE JEWELRY, FABRICATE, REPAIR, SETTING, MOUNTING GEMSTONE, ETC.

Salary: \$7.05 - \$9.00 per Hour – Full Time

Experience: Min. of 5 years in Gold Smith

Interested applicants may send their resume to King's Inc. P.O. Box 5050 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950 or pick up application form from our office at Paseo de Marianas next to Paris Croissant Bakery. Deadline for a submission is no later than 5:00pm on February 23, 2018.

MECH

**MACS MARINE
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(2) Commercial Diver

- At least 3 years experience in Scuba Diving
- Knowledgeable in using diving apparatus
- Should know how to take appropriate safety precaution, and instruct Customers

(1) Maintenance Repairer

- At least 2 years experience
- Repair & Maintain Company Premises

Contact Person: Adonis Santos
Contact No.: 323-2916



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Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 28th, 2018.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.

Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Mohammad/Susana Ali
P.O. Box 503969 CK, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: 233-6056/285-6056/788-0857

Pro se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In The Matter Of)
The Adoption Of:) FCD-AD-CIVIL
Minor Child:) ACTION NO.:
F.M.R.C.) 18-0045
By:)
Mohammad/)
Susana Ali)
Petitioners)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 5th day of March, 2018 at 1:30pm, before the Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2018.

/s/ Patrick V. Diaz
Deputy Clerk of Court

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 18-DPL-056(A-F)**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 07, 2018 • TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"INSURANCE ANNUAL PREMIUM FOR AUTOMOBILE (A), THE VESSEL (B), LIABILITY (C), PROPERTY CONTENTS (D), BURGLARY (E), WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION (F) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LAND SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA OFFICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORY OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ MARIANNE C. TERESEGOY
SECRETARY, DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

MERCARY T. DAYRIT] FCD-PA CIVIL
Petitioner] ACTION NO.
] 18-0023
vs.]
ANTHONY BRANTLEY] SUMMONS FOR
Publication
Respondent,]

TO THE ABOVE RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 2821, Box 10002 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2018.

/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

Herieta S. Cruz
P.O. Box 520202
Tinian, MP 96952
(670) 433-2871/783-1970

Pro se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In The Matter Of)
The Adoption Of:) FCD-AD-CIVIL
ACTION NO.
C.J.C.P.) 18-0040
C.J.C.P.)
Minor Child)
By:)
Henrieta S. Cruz)
Petitioner(s))

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 27th day of February, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 220A, before the Honorable Judge Camacho.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 2018.

/s/
By: Patrick V. Diaz,
Deputy Clerk of Court

**AM MACHINE SHOP &
CAR AIRCONDITIONING
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(3) Machinist

- At Least 3 years experience in Machining Job
- Fabricate & Modify parts Metal & Non Metal
- Can Operate Industrial Machines Like Lathe Machine,
- Milling Machine, Crankshaft Grinding Machine

(1) Car Aircon Technician

- At Least 3 years experience in Car Airconditioning Service Install, Repair & Service Car Airconditioning System

Contact Person: Adonis Santos
Contact No.: 323-2916

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 5th day of March, 2018 at 1:30pm, before the Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2018.

/s/ Patrick V. Diaz
Deputy Clerk of Court

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-BECQ/DCRM-059**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 14, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ECONOMIC VALUATION STUDY OF THE CNMI WETLANDS FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 18-DPW/TSWMD-055-CIF TINIAN**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 05, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "H" PICK UP TRUCK 4X4 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (TINIAN BRANCH)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-BECQ/DCRM-051**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 05, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TALAKHAYA WATERSHED REVEGETATION PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg. 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cmni@cnmibpl-hcpbl.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcpbl.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPBL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #2, Lower Navy Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (01/17/18)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Applications:
 - B. Renewal Applications: MD license #0608
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman



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6 teams to trade up, down in NFL draft



NEW YORK—

With the all-star circuit and Super Bowl in the rearview mirror, and the combine on the horizon, the predraft process is in full swing.

The entire league is launching headlong into preparations for the 2018 NFL draft, hoping to add the missing pieces they need to be next year's version of the Philadelphia Eagles.

While free agency is likely to fill some of the biggest needs for many teams, others will head into this year's draft still looking to address some gaping holes on their roster. While some are loaded with draft capital and should have the opportunity to make a bold move up in the draft, others are in desperate need of additional selections, and should be looking to move back.

Here are six teams that are likely to be heading up or down the board on draft weekend.

Buffalo Bills

The Bills are loaded with a pair of picks in each of the first two rounds this year, making them the prime candidate to move up for the franchise quarterback they so desperately need.

This year's crop of passers is deep, but with both of the Bills' first-round picks currently falling outside the top 20, they'll likely have to make a big jump to land one of this year's top prospects at the game's most important position. If Brandon Beane and Sean McDermott fall in love with a particular quarterback and the price is right, don't be shocked if they pull the trigger and make a huge jump to

get their man.



AP

Philadelphia Eagles running back Corey Clement (30), right, runs against New England Patriots strong safety Duron Harmon (30) during the first half of the NFL Super Bowl 52 football game, Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018, in Minneapolis.

Seattle Seahawks

The Seahawks have a penchant for moving back from their top pick on draft day anyway, and they're in desperate need of making such a move this year. Pete Carroll and company are currently without a single pick on Day 2 of this year's draft, thanks to multiple previous trades.

With big needs on both sides of the ball, the Seahawks would be wise to seek offers to move back from the No. 18 overall pick in return for some much-

needed resources in the middle rounds. Their offensive line still needs plenty of help, while needs at corner and running back also need to be addressed. Having just one pick in the first three rounds won't cut it.

Arizona Cardinals

The Cards were well aware they'd need to plan for an eventual life without Carson Palmer, but his recent retirement has turned that into an immediate situation. While they have some serviceable stop-gap solutions on the roster, they need to consider making a move to

secure one of this year's top quarterback prospects.

Currently sitting at No. 15 overall in the first round, the Cards are likely out of range for as many as four of the best passers in this year's class. If they're not sold on the likely leftovers, you could see Steve Keim make a bold move up to grab a franchise quarterback to make life easier for new head coach Steve Wilks.

New England Patriots

Another playoff mainstay that loves to move down in the draft, don't be surprised to see

the defending AFC champs do it again this year. While they do currently own a pair of second-round picks, earlier trades have left them lean on mid-round resources.

The Pats have an aging roster that will need an infusion of quality, young talent this off-season, much of it at key positions. Whether it's a young quarterback to replace the recently departed pair of Jimmy Garoppolo and Jacoby Brissett, or youthful alternatives to some of their more overpriced veterans, this team could use more picks than they've got in

the chamber right now.

Cleveland Browns

Laugh all you want at the winless, hapless Dawg Pound, but new general manager John Dorsey has to be licking his chops at the treasure trove of draft picks he gets to play with this year. With six of the first 65 selections, including two of the top five, the Browns are primed to make a huge splash.

Having so many early picks could make the Browns a major mover over the first two days of the draft, especially if they want to move back into the first round from their stop atop Day 2. After likely adding Dorsey's hand-picked quarterback at No. 1 overall, look for the Browns to do plenty of wheeling and dealing to help dig themselves out of the NFL cellar.

Philadelphia Eagles

While Philly fans will be happily picking confetti out of their ears for weeks, Howie Roseman and his crew will be hard at work preparing to repeat as Super Bowl champions. It'll be a tall order, especially since the Eagles don't currently own a Day 2 pick in this year's draft.

Without too many glaring holes on either side of the ball, the Eagles are a fantastic candidate to trade back from No. 32 overall, hoping to add back some of those missing selections in the second and third rounds.

The Philly faithful may be disappointed if their team doesn't make a pick on opening night, but they'd be better off for it in the long run. **(NFL DRAFT WIRES)**

Mets counting on d'Arnaud-Plawecki duo to finally catch on

 PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP) — The

way the New York Mets look at it, they have two catchers good enough to start in the majors.

Some might say they have none.

While the Mets focused on filling other holes this offseason, one thorny area where they didn't make a big move to mask their warts was behind the plate. They're still counting on once-touted prospects Travis d'Arnaud and Kevin Plawecki—or at least one of them—to solidify the position.

"We like the potential of both players. We think the way they grade out against the rest of the league is at least a little above average, and looking at the alternatives available to us, we felt these two guys were our best option," general manager Sandy Alderson

explained Monday, two days before New York's first formal workout at spring training.

For this pitching-centric team trying to rebound from a 2017 flop, it's a leap of faith with the in-house guys.

Time for them to catch on—for good.

"Both of us are very confident," d'Arnaud said.

The incumbent starter, d'Arnaud was selected 37th overall by Philadelphia in the 2007 amateur draft. He did well enough in the minors to win a Double-A MVP award and get included in trades for Cy Young Award winners Roy Halladay and R.A. Dickey.

Despite a reputation for being injury-prone, d'Arnaud was productive when healthy with the Mets from 2014-15. He even hit three home runs in the 2015 NL playoffs before New York lost the World

Series to Kansas City. But he slumped so badly the following year, plunging to four homers and 15 RBI with a paltry .629 OPS in 75 games, he lost playing time to defensive standout Rene Rivera.

He rebounded last season with career highs of 16 home runs and 57 RBI in 348 at-bats as the Mets finished 70-92 after fading from contention early. But his on-base percentage was only .293, leaving him with a less-than-stellar mark of .306 in just 393 games over five big league seasons.

"Be more selective. Swing at better pitches," said d'Arnaud, who turned 29 on Saturday. "I think my chase rate went up a little higher than it should have been."

And while d'Arnaud has shown a deft touch framing pitches, his throwing arm and game-calling are considered suspect. So he needs to hit to

stay on the field.

Plawecki, who turns 27 this month, also was rated a top prospect in the minors after the Big Ten Player of the Year was drafted 35th overall by the Mets in 2012 out of Purdue. He got his first chance to spell an injured d'Arnaud with New York early in the 2015 season, batting only .219 with a .576 OPS in 73 games.

He's bounced back and forth from Triple-A Las Vegas since, losing his job as the backup catcher to Rivera in 2016. But after getting recalled late last season, Plawecki, who has a good eye at the plate, made noticeable strides and finished with a respectable .764 OPS in 37 games.

He lacks a strong arm, but seems adept at handling pitchers.

"I think it takes some time to get used to playing in New York," Plawecki said. "When

I first came up I was young and kind of naïve in a sense, didn't know what to expect and things sped up on me a little bit and there was that mental grind I hadn't been used to before. Having that mentality up and down over the last couple of years has allowed me to take a step back and just focus on what's important and not really get caught up in things in New York that could get you in trouble. That's what I kind of let happen early on."

Plawecki and d'Arnaud shared playing time down the stretch last season, which might have helped both players remain fresh at the most demanding position on the diamond.

This offseason, they spent nearly two weeks together in Arizona working on receiving and throwing with Mets catching instructor Glenn Sherlock.

Jazz rally past Spurs for 10th straight win



SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—DDonovan Mitchell scored 25 points, including a go-ahead pull-up jumper with 39.2 seconds left, and the Utah Jazz extended their league-best winning streak to 10 games with a 101-99 win over the San Antonio Spurs on Monday night.

Mitchell hit a pair of go-ahead baskets and a free throw to give the Jazz the lead in the final minute after they trailed by as many as 13 points in the fourth quarter. Joe Ingles added 20 points, seven rebounds and five assists for Utah. Derrick Favors had 19 points and eight rebounds.

The Jazz (29-28) moved above .500 for the first time in more than two months.

Kyle Anderson scored 16 points and Pau Gasol had 15 points and 15 rebounds for the Spurs, who lost to Utah for the third time this season.

San Antonio went ahead 83-70 on a pull-up jumper by Bryn Forbes with 9:29 remaining. The Jazz chipped away before Mitchell hit a 3-pointer to tie it at 87 with 4:53 left. The teams traded baskets from there until Mitchell sealed it in the final minute.

Utah used a 20-4 run in the second quarter to take its largest first-half lead at 54-42. San Antonio cut the lead in half before halftime on layups by Gasol and Anderson.

In the third quarter, the Spurs used an 11-1 run to go back in front. Davis Bertans buried a 3-pointer to put San Antonio up 66-61.

The Jazz made 11 of 19 shots (57.9 percent) in the second quarter but just 4 of 22 attempts (18.2 percent) in the third.

76ers 108, Knicks 92

In Philadelphia, T.J. McConnell doesn't have the star power of Joel Embiid or Ben Simmons, but it was the undrafted reserve guard who received the loudest cheers while helping the streaking 76ers to another win.

McConnell had a triple-double with 10 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists. Dario Saric scored 24 points to pace all five starters in double figures, and Philadelphia won over the slumping New York Knicks on Monday night.

The first-time All-Star Embiid scored 17 points and Simmons, a top Rookie of the Year candidate, chipped in 13, but it was McConnell's night.

"I just think it's the thing that endears him to all of us," Philadelphia coach Brett Brown said. "You really respect him. He just plays so hard. He's a wonderful lesson



for so many basketball players for what perseverance and toughness can bring you to."

McConnell said Embiid was egging him toward the triple-double, and the fans and 76ers bench reacted with crazed enthusiasm when he grabbed his 10th rebound with 1:05 remaining.

"Joel just wouldn't let it go," McConnell said. "It was priceless. It speaks volumes about what kinds of guys we have. It was an awesome moment."

J.J. Redick had 18 points and Robert Covington chipped in 13 for the 76ers, who won their 10th straight at home to remain in playoff position in the Eastern Conference. Philadelphia, which never trailed, sits eighth in

the Eastern Conference and moved three games ahead of ninth-place Detroit.

Michael Beasley scored 22 points to lead the Knicks, who lost their seventh straight.

Warriors 129, Suns 83

In Oakland, Stephen Curry scored 22 points, and Golden State coach Steve Kerr tried to break up the monotony of a long season by turning the timeout huddles over to his players in the Warriors' victory over the Phoenix Suns.

With the defending champion Warriors dragging a bit leading into the All-Star break this weekend, Kerr apparently searched for a new way to capture his players' interests by handing over the whiteboard during timeouts to a rotating

cast of players, with injured Draymond Green and Andre Iguodala getting most of the chances.

Kerr spent the breaks outside the huddle while his players drew out plays and discussed strategy. The move worked just fine against the struggling Suns, who became the first team with 40 losses this season.

Omri Casspi added 19 points, Kevin Durant had 17 and Klay Thompson and Nick Young each scored 16 as Golden State won its 12th straight in the series, its longest active streak against any team.

Elfrid Payton scored 29 points in his second game since being acquired at the trade deadline from Orlando, but Phoenix still lost its sixth

straight and 11th in the past 12 games.

Payton scored 16 points in the first quarter before Curry got on the scoreboard, but he got little help. Payton made his first seven shots, but his teammates started 1-for-15 and the Warriors managed to take a 25-24 lead by the end of the first after being outscored by 32 points in the first quarter of the previous three games.

Curry scored 10 points in the second quarter as Golden State built a 17-point lead at the half and coasted the rest of the way.

Pelicans 118, Pistons 103

In Detroit, Anthony Davis had 38 points and 10 rebounds to lead New Orleans in another

Bulls 105, Magic 101

In Chicago, Zach LaVine had a tiebreaking dunk for Chicago after stealing an inbounds pass in the closing seconds.

The Bulls blew an 18-point lead in the fourth quarter but still came away with their second win in three games after dropping seven in a row.

LaVine stole Jonathon Simmons' inbounds attempt with 15 seconds left and finished with a thunderous slam. He added two free throws after Mario Hezonja missed a 3-pointer.

Lauri Markkanen scored 21 points, and LaVine finished with 18 points and seven rebounds.

Hezonja led Orlando with 24 points, and Evan Fournier scored 22.

George committed to re-signing with Thunder

OKLAHOMA CITY

(AP)—By all indications, it's looking more and more likely that Paul George will remain in Oklahoma City.

While the Oklahoma City Thunder have struggled as of late, George's comments have become more and more positive towards remaining in OKC. According to sources, the All-Star forward is committed to re-signing with the Thunder, rather than signing with the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Lakers recently cleared up to two max contract roster spaces following the trade of Jordan Clarkson and Larry Nance Jr. to the Cleveland

Cavaliers. President of basketball operations Magic Johnson made it very clear that he completed that trade with the belief that Los Angeles would be able to lure two max free agents in the summer of 2018, which is when George becomes a free agent.

George and the Lakers have been deemed a match made in heaven for months due to George being from the local area and the fact that the Purple and Gold desperately need a franchise star. They haven't acquired a franchise superstar since the summer of 2012 when they traded for Dwight Howard.

While the Thunder have struggled as of late, they were getting better before Andre Roberson's season-ending injury. George may see that it's more logical to simply re-up with the Thunder and continue building a foundation with Russell Westbrook and Carmelo Anthony rather than starting anew in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, after being acquired at the trade deadline, Joe Johnson was waived by the Sacramento Kings on Sunday.

Sacramento announced the move before their game against the Timberwolves on Sunday night. The 36-year-

old Johnson was acquired along with guard Iman Shumpert, a 2020 second-round draft choice, the rights to forward Dimitros Agravanis and cash in a three-team trade involving the Cleveland Cavaliers and Utah Jazz.

The Kings sent guard George Hill to Cleveland in the deal.

Johnson appeared in 32 games for Utah and averaged 7.3 points, 3.3 rebounds and 1.4 assists in 21.9 minutes per game. In 16 NBA seasons, Johnson has averaged 16.2 points per game and been named an All-Star seven times.

AP

San Antonio Spurs' Davis Bertans (42) and Pau Gasol (16) defend against Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell (45) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 12, 2018, in Salt Lake City.

one of his strong performances against Detroit.

Davis is averaging 30.4 points per game against the Pistons, his highest total against an NBA team. He scored a career-high 59 against them nearly two years ago.

That's one reason the Pelicans have won 11 of the last 12 games against the Pistons.

Detroit attempted to defend Davis with Andre Drummond and Blake Griffin, but they were no match for Davis inside, off the dribble or on the outside. The All-Star was 14 of 24 from the field, including 3 for 6 on 3-pointers.

Nikola Mirotic helped the Pelicans pull away in the third quarter and finished with 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Griffin scored 22 on 8-of-17 shooting. Drummond had 13 points and 21 rebounds.

Payton scored 16 points in the first quarter before Curry got on the scoreboard, but he got little help. Payton made his first seven shots, but his teammates started 1-for-15 and the Warriors managed to take a 25-24 lead by the end of the first after being outscored by 32 points in the first quarter of the previous three games.

Austin Rivers scored 17 points, and reserve Montrezl Harrell collected 15 points on 6-for-6 shooting. The Clippers made 19 of their first 26 shots and won for the 12th time in 17 games.

D'Angelo Russell and Joe Harris each scored 16 for the Nets, who dropped their sixth straight.

Bulls 105, Magic 101

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Hezonja led Orlando with 24 points, and Evan Fournier scored 22.

Rangamar will assess CNMI team hopefuls

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Marianas Island Basketball Federation development officer Elias Rangamar will assess players who attended the tryouts for the CNMI national women's basketball team before naming the squad that will compete in the Micronesian Games in Yap.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that he is set to sit down and talk to all the candidates so he could personally give them his assessment.

"I would either call or meet them here at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. I don't want to just come out with a list and that's it. I wanted to sit down with them and explain why they made it to the team or

they did not make the cut. I wanted them to know their strengths and weaknesses, what areas they need to improve, and other things that I saw during the tryouts," said Rangamar, who is expected to coach both the men's and women's basketball teams in the Micro Games.

The MIBF official conducted



a series of tryouts, starting last Feb. 5 at the Ada Gym.

"All of them need to know the reasons why they are selected on the team or not. It is much better for them to know the right things or the mistakes they did, if they dribble the ball too much or if they are a spot up shooter. Things like that, which

could somehow be helpful on the way they play. Assessment like this could improve their skills and raise the level of their game," he said.

Rangamar had a final session with players hoping to make it to the CNMI women's team last Monday and will have another meeting with the hopefuls for the men's squad this Saturday also at the Ada Gym.

He said that once both teams are formed, they are pressed for time as the squads will have only about four months to prepare for the basketball competition in the Micro Games. The ninth edition of the quadrennial sports events in the region will be held at the 2,000-seater Yap Sports Complex from July 15 to 27.

BRUV

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the three spots.

Krizel Tuazon and Dai Podziewski scored two goals apiece for ABCD FC, while Juan Sanchez and Kirt Andon chipped in one each. Ian Maniago and Khristelle Itaas logged the two goals for La Fabrica, which went down to fifth place in the team standings with its 1-0-3 mark. La Fabrica and CTSI Petmalu will meet in the last elimination round game tomorrow with the match to determine the owner of the last playoff berth.

CTSI Petmalu managed to avert an impending loss and remain in playoff contention as it played better in the second half to force a draw against Suplex City. CTSI Petmalu was down, 2-4, going into the second half, when Jonathan Capayas, Joshua De Leon, Louie Calayag drilled one goal apiece and the team got an own goal off Suplex City's error to tie the match. Diana Maniacop and Thaiphi Austria logged the two goals for CTSI Petmalu in the first half.

Suplex City's four goals in the opening 20 minutes off play came from Katrina Costales' pair and one each from Alex Park and Therize Millare. Park added one more in the second half, while Jerlyn Castillo also hit the board in the final frame.

670 Sonics to join PH tournament



The 670 Sonics Basketball Club is set to leave for the Philippines next month to compete in the 3rd Dreamers International Basketball Challenge that will be held in Lucban in Quezon province.

The BSA Pinoy Youth Dreamers Basketball Club is organizing the tournament and has extended its invitation to the 670 Sonics for the second time.

The 670 Sonics players and officials have been busy raising funds for their trip as they are reaching out to various businesses on island for donations.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation is one of the groups/companies that stepped forward to help the basketball group, donating \$1,000 worth of shirts for the 670 Sonics' participation in the PH tournament.

The 670 Sonics first competed in the Philippines in 2016, as they played in the 670 Sonics-Laguna Philippines Friendship Basketball Tournament. They challenged three collegiate teams and one high school squad and advanced to the finals against San Pablo College. The visiting team settled for the runner-up honors after losing to San Pablo College, 95-90.

Sonics founder Jesse Tudela



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
670 Sonics officers Jesse Tudela, center, and Omar Ajoste, fourth left, receive the ceremonial check donation from Tan Siu Lin Foundation and TanHoldings' Carli Sablan, Dave Sablan, and Raymond Zapanta early this week at the foundation's office in Garapan.

FALCONS

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Jones out at second base and prevent an Ol'Aces runner from advancing.

Nokki Saralu was safe on a Kaipat throwing error with Lamarc Iguel scoring on that play to tie the game. Saralu was then caught out at second, as Falcons catcher Henry Iguel made a quick throw to Kalen.

The game remained in a deadlock after one extra inning, as neither team scored in the 10th, setting up another thrilling finish in the 11th and this time the Falcons capitalized on the Ol'Aces' errors.

A.J. Evangelista was hit by pitch and moved to second on a Giovanni Mira bunt single to put two runners on base for the Falcons at the top of the sec-

ond extra inning.

The Ol'Aces made a pitching change after that with Saralu coming in for reliever Joe Guerrero. Saralu then walked Ian Norita to load up the bases, while Evangelista took advantage of a wild pitch to steal home for the Falcons' go-ahead run. Mira pushed the lead to two runs on another Saralu wild throw.

Saralu settled down after that and retired Kalen and Bradley Lieto for the two quick outs. He walked Frankie Lieto to put runners at the corners, but Joaquin Sablan struck out for the third out.

Evangelista closed out for the Falcons at the bottom of the 11th and caught Jesus Iguel swinging for the first out. He forced Jones to fly out to left fielder Norita to move the Falcons closer to their

season-debut win. Evangelista walked Lamarc Iguel in the next play, but the Ol'Aces shortstop was caught out at second to end the game.

Frankie Lieto lasted 9 2/3 innings for the Falcons and gave up six earned runs on nine hits with five strikeouts and six walks. Norita went 4-for-5, scoring a run and an RBI, while Pua was 2-for-3 with a run. Kaipat hit 2-for-4 and had two runs and a triple.

Meanwhile, the Blue Jays and Outlaws played in the second game of the season, but results of their duel last night were unavailable at press time. SBL will have no match tonight in observance of Ash Wednesday.

In related news, the Blue Jays are managed by Froilan Camacho, not Froilan Tenorio as earlier reported.

SEEDED

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defeated Sam Cope and Ami Tsukagoshi, 6-2, 7-5.

Eubin Park and Ren needed only two sets, too to eliminate Joey Hong and Tisha Ferrer, 6-2, 6-1, and earn the right to face Jung and Ramsey in Round 2. Ramsey and Jung labored a 7-6 win over Andrew Chung and Vickie Izuka in the first set before dominating their foes in the second, 6-2.

Meanwhile, No. 2 seed Jeff Race and Jun Cheol Hwang led the Round 2 qualifiers at the lower half of the draw and were joined to the next round by fellow-seeded players Seung Won Lee and Morris Villanueva (No.4), Robbie Schorr and J.C. Ferrer (No. 5), and Helen Kim and Tania Tan (No. 7).

Tan and Kim ousted Alex Martin and Serin Chung, 6-3, 7-6, for a Round 2 date against Ryma and Sean Lee, who slipped past Hae Hoon Son and Anika Camacho, 6-3,

3-6, 10-6. Race and Hwang also played an extended game in the opening round before downing David Kwon and Grace Choi, 6-7, 6-3, 10-8.

Race and Hwang were set to square off against Nason Wessel and Vincent Tudela in the second round as the latter pair outlasted Seung Jin Paik and Dana Lee in the opening round, 5-7, 6-0, 10-6.

Villanueva and Seung Won Lee took only two sets to beat Jun Wang and Martin Jambor, 6-0, 6-2, and were paired against Richard Steele and Saorin Oh in Round 2. Oh and Steele also made short work of their Round 1 opponents after topping Cojiro Kaga and Daniel Kang, 6-4, 6-2. Schorr and J.C. Ferrer also recorded a 6-4, 6-2 triumph against Hoo Wang and Wendi Herring for a second round collision against Steven Goodwin and Fanai Stafler, who edged Andy Lee and Sam Ryu, 6-2, 6-2.

Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Grace Christian Academy 1 player makes a return near the net during their game against GCA 2 in the middle school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last week at the Eagles court in Navy Hill.



Grace Christian Academy 2's Kian Pajarillaga makes a return to GCA 1.



Mt. Carmel School 1's Richard Steele spikes the ball.



Mt. Carmel School 1's Merrick Toves goes for a dig.



An Agape Christian School player receives a serve to the backline.



A Saipan International School student serves against Agape Christian School.



An Agape Christian School student tosses the ball.



Grace Christian Academy 1's Erin Frink receives a serve, while her teammates stay close in the play.



6 teams to
trade up, down
in NFL draft
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Jazz rally past
Spurs for 10th
straight win
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Falcons survive Ol'Aces

Seeded players win in Round 1

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER


The seeded players in the mixed up doubles event in the 2018 Coconut Tennis Classic made the grade in the opening week of the competition at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

No. 1 seed Peter Loken and Daniel Heo eased past Coume Kaga and Ye Jin Son, 6-2, 6-2, to advance to the second round. Loken and Heo were scheduled to face Danny Lee and Roy Pangilinan—a 6-1, 6-1 winner over Irin Chung and Shoko Celis—last Sunday to battle for one of the quarterfinals berth at the upper half of the draw, but results of their game and other second round matches have yet to be posted on the event's website.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Isaac Heo rushes forward for a return during his and Ken Song's mixed up doubles game against Danny Jeoung and Malika Miyawaki in the 2018 Coconut Tennis Classic last weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



JON PEREZ

Falcons manager Doru Camacho, third left, and coach Mike Cruz greet their players after winning against the defending champions Ol'Aces in the opening game of the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Falcons squandered a four-run lead, but managed to squeeze out a 10-8 decision in their 11-inning game over the defending champions Ol'Aces at the start of the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

The Natibu Sports Association-supported Falcons were up 8-4 after only 8 1/2 innings and needed only three outs to secure the win in their early rematch against the Ol'Aces. The Falcons lost to the Ol'Aces, 3-1, in best-of-five title series last year.

However, the Falcons failed to close the game in regulation, as starter Frankie Lieto got Ol'Aces leadoff batter Jeremy Atalig to an infield fly for the first out, but later



walked Vince Torres, who then scored on an Angel Falig double. Jesus Iguel drove in Falig and moved to second on a Lieto wild pitch before reaching home plate on a Ben Jones Jr. RBI single to make it 8-7.

Lamarc Iguel was next at bat and had a fielder's choice as Falcons third baseman Kolbey Kaipat made the throw to shortstop Ken Kalen to tag

See FALCONS on Page 26

Bruv thumps Islanders FC

Bruv moved closer to a sweep of the elimination round following another lopsided victory in the co-ed U18 division of Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Bruv whipped Islanders FC, 11-2, to improve to a 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record or one victory away from earning a perfect mark in the round-robin elimination. Bruv, which will be seeded first in the playoffs that will begin next week, was scheduled to play its final game in the preliminary round last night (against ABCD FC).

Mareko Tekopua delivered five goals for Bruv, making three in the first



half to lift his team to a 6-2 halftime advantage. Guine Borja added two goals in the first half, while Gillian Villagomez made one. Brothers Ichiro and Taka Borja scored for Islanders FC in the opening 20 minutes of play, while John Bucayo, John Michael Rojas, and Emmanuel Aniana tallied one apiece for Bruv in the last 20 minutes of the match to complete their domination in last weekend's duel.

With another loss, Islanders FC (0-0-5) is out of the playoff race.

In other results, CTSI Petmalu and ABCD FC boosted their playoff bids in the division.

ABCD FC defeated La Fabrica, 6-2, to gain a 2-1-1

record for third place in the team standings. CTSI Petmalu, on the other hand, is in fourth place with its 1-2-1 slate following a 6-6 draw against the Kensington Hotel-backed Suplex City. Only the Top 4 teams after the elimination round will move to the semifinals and Bruv, ABCD FC, and Suplex City (3-1) have already secured

See BRUV on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bruv's Guine Borja, right, and CTSI Petmalu's Diana Maniacop nudge each other as they battle for possession during their co-ed U18 division game in Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament this month at the TSL Sports Complex. Bruv won over Islanders FC last Sunday, while CTSI Petmalu forced a draw against Suplex City.

